Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-007
Thursday
10 January 1991

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FBIS-NES-91-007 7 January 1991

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Peninsula Papers View Geneva Meeting Failure

NC1001083891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0710 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Manama, 10 Jan (WAKH)—Papers published in the Arabian Peninsula today highlight the failure of yesterday's talks in Geneva between the U.S. secretary of state and the Iraqi foreign minister in light of the Iraqi regime's insistence on continuing its unjust occupation of Kuwait and the destructive war that this failure implies. [passage omitted]

In its editorial today, a Bahraini paper writes that despite the irresponsible behavior exhibited by the Iraqi regime since its invasion of Kuwait, the world had not lost hope that the crisis would be settled peacefully. AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ says that the Iraqi regime underlined once again its lack of responsibility toward the world or toward its own people and thus led the Geneva talks to failure. It notes that the way the talks ended means that the Iraqi regime is determined to push the region toward a destructive war.

The paper stresses that regardless of whether any new peace initiative emerges in the time remaining before 15 January, it can be said that yesterday's talks mean that the world has exhausted the last chance for peace and that the Iraqi regime alone will be responsible for whatever happens next.

For its part, the Qatari paper AL-RAYAH writes that the Iraqi regime's intransigence and its choice of the course of military confrontation rather than that of peace are pushing the region toward the inferno of a destructive war and are clear reflections of the Iraq's bloody mentality which refuses to submit to international legitimacy and swims against the tide of the international will as expressed by the Security Council resolutions.

In its editorial, the paper says that the U.S. secretary of state's rejection of any attempt to extend the internationally approved deadline beyond 15 January reflects the unity of the international stand in confronting the Iraqi aggression. It warns that the war which is on the verge of being ignited because of the Iraqi regime's intransigence will not be a picnic as Saddam Husayn believes; it will be a decisive confrontation between right as represented by the whole world and wrong as embodied by the Baghdad regime.

Referring to reports about an Arab initiative to resolve the crisis, AL-RAYAH stresses that no new initiative will be accepted if it is not based on the international resolutions. It adds that no one can promise any concessions to the Iraqi regime "because this would mean that aggression could bear fruit, which would set a grave precedent in international relations."

In the United Arab Emirates, AL-ITTIHAD writes under the headline "The Geneva Meeting and the Lost Opportunity" that Baghdad's representative at the meeting dashed all hopes when he insisted on the intransigent Iraqi stand and refused to listen to all explanations that clarified the series of miscalculated stands taken so far. The paper warns Iraq against continuing to misinterpret the international consensus to end the Iraqi forces' occupation of Kuwait or to underestimate the determination of the international, Arab, and Islamic forces to use all means necessary, including force, to implement the Security Council resolutions.

AL-ITTIHAD expresses the hope that the head of the Iraqi regime will realize in the next five days that war means great sufferings and terrible catastrophes that he can avoid if he abandons his arrogance and claims. Concluding its editorial, the paper says: "Tariq 'Aziz has wasted the opportunity provided by the Geneva meeting. All that remains is the glimmer of hope that some way can be found to save Iraq and its people from a fate no one wants for them."

Saudi Prince Meets Egyptian, Syrian Ministers

LD0601113191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1057 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 6 Jan (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the [Saudi] National Guard, received this afternoon at his office of the royal court Dr. Ismat al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; and Mr. Faruq al-Shar', Syrian foreign minister. [passage omitted]

Correction to Saudi-Egyptian-Syrian Talks End

LD0701184191

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Saudi-Egyptian-Syrian Talks End in Riyadh," published in the 7 January Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 1:

Page two, column two, paragraph five, first sentence make read: ...as soon as possible so that all Arab efforts may be devoted to the realization of a just, comprehensive... (rewording for clarity)

Islamic Affairs

Iraq's Ramadan Addresses Islamic Conference

JN0901192591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1309 GMT 91

[Speech by Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, delivered at inaugural session of the International Popular Islamic Conference in Baghdad on 9 January]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ramadan] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Men said to them: "A great army is gathering against you" and frightened them, but it only increased their faith. They said: "For us

God sufficeth, and He is the best disposer of affairs." And they returned with grace and bounty from God; no harm ever touched them; for they followed the good pleasure of God; and God is the Lord of bounties unbounded." [Koranic verses]

Gentlemen, esteemed members of the international popular Islamic conference; respectable guests; esteemed audience: It pleases me to patronize this conference of yours on behalf of the faithful and mujahid President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, [applause] and to convey to you his confidence as well as the confidence of the sons of this good country, which is holding out, thanks to God and to you, in our just cause which is bound to triumph, as long as it is on the side of right and as long as we have prepared, thanks to the grace and support of God, all the requirements of victory in this confrontation, whose honor we will all attain. In this confrontation, we will also attain one of its two glorious results [either martyrdom or victory], God willing.

Brothers: We, the nation of heavenly messages, have always pursued a course linked to all the values that place man only next to the Almighty God and next to His principles and injunctions and view Him as a sublime value which should never be slighted. We have never condoned the idea of seeing any brute or aggressive force make this value retreat from the path of right or abandon the path of guidance. God graced us all when He made this blessed land of ours a cradle of the heavenly faiths, and thus entrusted our forefathers with the honorable task of conveying and accomplishing these missions in the way deemed appropriate and demanded by the Almighty God. Likewise, God honored our forefathers with the task of making sacrifices for them, demonstrating all the resolve, adherence to right, and the mobilization of their resources to place them on the right track.

It is nothing new to say that serving mankind, the task we were honored by God to do, was viewed in the conscience and hearts of our generations as a matchless honor and an unprecedented favor. Thus, all the forces hostile to us realized they can direct their lethal arrows against our nation only if they manage to kill one of these two things or the two of them together.

To kill Arab renaissance, these forces have continued to marshal all the evil and criminal capabilities they have in order to undermine the relationship between Arabism and Islam. To kill Muslims, they have made persistent efforts to eliminate the carriers of the Islamic mission and its sons who have been imbued with this mission and identified it as a heavenly message, as a creed to be observed in daily life, and as a code of ethics that will remain eternal and capable of application at all ages.

The colonialists were the victim of a grand delusion for some time when they convinced themselves that they had killed the buoyant spirit in this dear nation along with its glories and basic components, foremost among which is faith. They mistakenly thought they made peace with those who call themselves Arabs and Muslims and whom the enemy perceives to be Arabs and Muslims. They thus began to scheme against this chaste land, using all the malicious and criminal means available to them to go to extremes in tearing us apart, plundering our wealth, humiliating our sanctities and our values, and putting out all of our bright spots which have continued to astound them and which frighten them. That is why they make failed attempts and try unsuccessfully various means. "Their intention is to extinguish God's light by blowing with their mouths; but God will complete the revelation of His Light even though the unbelievers may detest it." [Koranic verse]

There is none among us, delegates, nay, there is none in the whole world who is not aware of the details of the grand conspiracy against the lands of Arabs and Islam and against one of its holiest shrines, Palestine and holy Jerusalem, the cradle of Jesus the son of Mary, may God's peace be upon him, and the destination of the nocturnal journey of the noble Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and mercy be upon him. To complete this conspiracy, the colonialists, their puppets, and proteges massed all of their capabilities to tear apart the Arab nation, fragment Muslims, prevent them from showing active involvement with their substantial issues, and to preoccupy them with successive daily battles to secure their daily bread, ensure the most basic form of a decent living, and fight the ignorance, sickness, and other diseases plaguing them.

When God allowed one of the most important and effective sources of wealth in the new life to come out of the earth, the colonialists hastened to plunder oil, this great blessing, and used it to humilitate its owners, to starve them, and to install a number of traitors who sold their consciences, religion, and patriotism by acting against the injunctions in a manner that harms Arab and Islamic values. Hence, the camp of the enemies represented by the colonialists and their proteges continued to monitor with fright and sometimes with panic every renaissance which might cause this nation to restore its independence and to build a community based on justice, fairness, science, and well-being for the Arabs, Muslims, and all people.

This explains this deep-rooted enmity which has made its dwelling in the heads of the infidels and the devils of this age over more than 20 years during which they were observing with fear and hatred and with an ingrained historical rancor that goes back to the darkest corners of the heart, the new renaissance of Iraq and its faithful and mujahid son President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him. They saw in him Saladin, who liberated Jerusalem from their filth. Besides, they saw in him the chivalry of all those forefathers who carried their swords and liberated our Arab and Islamic lands from the filth of polytheism, the enslavement of man, holding him in contempt, and desecrating him in a bestial manner.

Thus, we understand, O you faithful and blessed gathering, as they saw Iraq emerge victorious out of an eight-year war with its head aloft how the torridity was

set ablaze in these rancorous hearts and the faces were blackened to engage it in a new war, but with crueler and more harmful means. Therefore, they entrusted a handful of traitors, who were installed by the colonialists, who were brought up on corruption, and who used religion and values as covers—covers which do not even cover their bad conduct—the task of of starting a new war. The colonialists entrusted these miserable creatures with the task of starting the new war so that they could get rid of Iraq, the nation, and faith altogether.

They thus used a double method. They used oil to fill up the reservoirs of the colonialists and operate their aggressive machine and created a big fuss about Iraq's alleged intentions to produce weapons of destruction to threaten the world. They said this and sought to galvanize the public opinion against us.

When all the attempts, warnings, and reminders, given through the use of advice to repulse the petty traitors from their sins and errors, failed, we had to respond to the great call on 2 August 1990, and Iraq had to reembrace Kuwait—the lands of which were usurped by the British colonial rule that installed some of its tools as rulers—so that this unity and the return of the branch to the origin could be the embodiment of a grand confrontation and a battle known as the crucial battle in which we will strike at the entire camp of infidelity using the entire camp of faith.

O blessed and esteemed attendees: We are neither advocates of war nor, God knows, do we wish for it. We will not be the cause for it if it is to break out, God forbid, as our enemies claim. They know that they are liars. In early August, the colonialists made up a big lie saying that Iraq wants to launch an aggression against the lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia]. Their proteges in the region believed them. These proteges might have wished this to happen so that they could show what they have labored to hide. The reference here is to the ignoble and dubious ties.

They and their masters have forgotten, however, that the desecration of our holy lands will cause them to be thrown—along with all the armies that the idol has massed—into the inferno of a battle whose extent is known to only God. Thanks to our faith in our God, in ourselves, and in all believers, we believe that we will emerge victorious in it, God willing. Say: "Can you expect for us any fate other than one of two glorious things—martyrdom or victory? But we can expect for you either that God will send His punishment from Himself, or by our hands. So wait expectant; we too will wait with you." [Koranic verse]

O brothers: In this confrontation the camp of infidelity has massed all of its capabilities, deception, and its ostensibly big aggressive machine. These capabilities which might look dangerous are, however, very much weaker than our determination and will, because God, truth, and you are on our side. As for us, we are confident, we identify with our history, and we are eager to safeguard the future of our sons. We want to leave them a prosperous and flourishing country whose construction and renaissance is not exclusively confined to scientific accomplishments and development, regardless of the importance of these accomplishments and this development. This construction must be supported and enlivened by all the values we would like to cherish: manliness, and the honor of maintaining a link with our past, which is full of everything dear and good.

Over the past five months, and since the day of the great call on 2 August and until this auspicious day of ours, we have scored great and significant victories. Thanks to God and to the wisdom of the mujahid leader Saddam Husayn, we repulsed all evil attempts and robbed the enemies' camp of all of its aggressive means, of its excuses and justifications. At the same time, this period was an opportunity for all the faithful to know they have only one position to take—that of defending Iraq, because this would be a defense of Arabism, Islam, and faith. This period was also sufficient for the camp of infidelity and aggression to be isolated along with a handful of traitors and servile creatures whose hearts are sick, who are panicky and want evil to materialize quickly. Some of them seem more hurried than the idol Bush, U.S. President, for igniting this war which would prove to be destructive if it were to break out, God forbid. On top of these victories was the initiative of 12 August 90 which contained a comprehensive, fair, and just solution to all regional problems based on uniform standards. This initiative has exposed the injustice of the colonialists and the weakness of the arguments of the agents, some of whom were told that they will be kept in power as a price for their treason. This is their delusion. Some others received ill-gotten money from the wealth which the croesus and his ilk in the lands of Najd and Hejaz wasted on serious offenses, bribes, and corruption.

All fair-minded in the world, and even some of the pillars of the idol, regardless of their arrogance, have not managed to deny the strong linkage existing among the problems of this region. In another splendid move, the foreigners hosted in Iraq were given the choice to travel or stay after we had completed the preparations for defending ourselves, so that we could rob the enemy of a malicious weapon and expose a big lie which it used to tarnish our image and turn some of those showing some hesitation into enemies.

With the passage of each day, the camp of the enemies cracks, and some of its symbols or pillars fall; whereas, our gathering remains firm, cohesive, and grows stronger, and the double standards the colonialists used at the UN Security Council and the United Nations become exposed. These standards were pursued with temptation, enticement, and even through bribes. The pursuit of these double standards has shown the grave injustice inflicted and the weak arguments employed. We are for peace. But, we also demand the restoration of our rights in full, foremost among which is the right of the Palestinian people, the right of the valiant intifadah, and the people of the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. Moreover, we want to

see our wealth remain ours, not only for Iraq, but for all Arabs and for all poor Muslims, and for all of those whom we can help outside these contexts. This is a priority task that we will never forfeit. "But if the enemy inclines toward peace, do thou also incline toward peace, and trust in God: For He is the One that heareth and knoweth all things [Koranic verse]."

O noble brothers: The criminals, the enemies of God, the nation, and humanity have imposed an unjust blockade against us—a blockade that has not remained confined to efforts to prevent us from continuing our construction march. The blockade has gone beyond this to include food and medicines. They beat the drums of war and mobilized almost half a million troops who came with all of their dirt and filth to our holy lands, along with some of those who were driven by some Arab governments to these lands, deluding themselves into believing that they are deceiving God and ourselves. These governments, as a matter of fact, are incapable of even deceiving themselves regarding their conduct. The idol fixed a date, 15 January this year. The idol claims that we have a week or less for the deluge. They thought they were frightening us or making us budge from our course or determination. But, this is wishful thinking. We are eager to save every drop of blood of our people and nation. At the same time, we are ready to turn their pillars, the tools of their aggression, and their proteges into hellfire. Many heads will fall off the shoulders, and thrones will be toppled and meet their fate, hollow and humiliated. May God grant victory to the faithful.

May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. [applause]

ICO Secretary General Reviews Gulf Situation

LD0801192891 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1722 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 8 Jan (SPA)—Hamid Alghabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], has stressed that the Iraqi regime's intransigence and refusal to withdraw from Kuwait will lead to a destructive military confrontation the consequences and after effects of which no one can predict. He expressed his and all the ICO member countries' concern about the imminent outbreak of a destructive conflict, unless the Iraqi regime complies with Islamic, Arab and international resolutions—all of which have agreed on the imperativeness of the unconditional end to the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. The ICO secretary general believes that the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait has struck a blow to the Islamic nation which has been aspiring to solidarity and joint action geared toward the interests of Islamic peoples.

In a speech delivered today at a joint meeting of representatives of member countries at the bureau of the fifth Islamic summit conference and the 19th foreign ministers' conference, he said: The Iraqi aggression on Kuwait has weakened the Islamic nation tragically, and has destroyed its hopes of longterm solidarity and development. Dr. Alghabid pointed to the recent meeting of Islamic foreign ministers in Cairo which coincided with the beginning of the unjust Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait. He expressed his regret that the Islamic countries were meeting to discuss the invasion of a Muslim country by another instead of meeting to discuss the strengthening of cooperation and solidarity in the Islamic world.

He urged the Iraqi regime to respond to the call of peace and to spare his country and the Islamic nation from disasters.

The representatives of member countries held a closed working session doors to discuss developments in the Arabian Gulf region in the light of the continued Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the approaching deadline specified by the international community for a voluntary end to the occupation.

Representatives of Kuwait, Gabon, the Maldives, Palestine and Morocco from the Islamic summit conference bureau, and representatives of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey, Senegal and Palestine from the bureau of the 19th Islamic foreign minister's conference are participating in the meeting.

Islamic Groups Reaffirm Condemnation of Iraq

LD0901001691 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2040 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Two Islamic groups have reaffirmed their condemnation of the continued Iraqi occupation of the state of Kuwait and the serious developments it has caused.

The two groups expressed their great concern about the situation in the Arabian Gulf region in view of the impudence and arrogance displayed by the Iraqi regime, and its refusal to submit to the resolutions of the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) and the United Nations Organization.

In a statement released on the conclusion of the joint meeting of the representatives of members of the fifth Islamic summit conference and the 19th Islamic foreign ministers' conference bureau, the participants, on behalf of the ICO members and their peoples, urged the Baghdad rulers to submit to the will of the whole world by withdrawing from Kuwait immediately and unconditionally, and to clear the way for the return of the Kuwaiti people to their normal lives in their homeland under the leadership of Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, chairman of the fifth Islamic summit conference.

The statement, released in Jeddah, said: These demands are in line with the spirit of wisdom, rightness, and justice which are dictated by the true Islamic religion.

The statement blamed the Iraqi regime for the consequences of not complying with the Islamic and international will, and for its destruction of the aspirations of millions of Muslims who are praying to God to spare the

Arabian Gulf region from the dangers of a massive war that will destroy Iraq, the dire consequences of which will affect present and future generations.

The statement recalled the resolutions of the 19th Islamic foreign ministers' conference and the final statement by the annual coordination meeting of the foreign ministers in New York on the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait.

The statement expressed satisfaction at the international community's support for those resolutions, and expressed appreciation for the firm attitude taken by the international community against the sinful aggression. Finally, the statement rejected all the Iraqi regime's attempts at linking the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait with any other cause, and considered them a cheap method of justifying the continued occupation of an Islamic Arab country.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Affirms Support for Iraq in 'Any War'

JN0801203491 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1930 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Brother leader president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] reiterated the PLO's support for fraternal Iraq in any war that might be waged against it.

In an interview a Spanish television station conducted with him in Baghdad, brother leader president Abu-'Ammar said that the end of the Gulf crisis is linked to attaining a solution to the Palestine question within a comprehensive framework.

Brother leader president Abu-'Ammar stressed that the United States had plans for deploying troops in the Middle East region before 2 August. He criticized the failure of the European states to take independent positions on the Gulf crisis.

Iraq's Ramadan, 'Arafat Address Martyrs Rally

JN0801205291 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1750 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Under the patronage of brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, in the presence of Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council, and first deputy prime minister, as well as a number of members of the Regional Command and National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and also in the presence of brothers Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Abu-al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid], Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], and Nasr Yusuf, members of the Fatah Central Committee; brothers 'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad, 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, and Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas], members of the PLO Executive Committee; Dr. Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Popular Struggle Front; a number of Arab ambassadors, a multitude of world news agency and television networks correspondents, and a massive audience of Palestinians, the PLO office in Baghdad staged a rally marking Palestinian martyrs' day, concluding a week of celebrations by our people marking the 26th anniversary of the launching of the armed Palestinian revolution.

The rally was inaugurated by the Palestinian and Iraqi national anthems. A one-minute silence followed, in deference to the righteous souls of our martyrs.

Palestinian ambassador in Baghdad brother 'Azzam al-Ahmad then delivered a speech in which he welcomed brother leader president Abu-'Ammar, Taha Yasin Ramadan, members of the Regional Command and National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, fraternal Fatah Central Committee members, PLO Executive Committee members, and friends and brothers among the attendees.

Afterward, Taha Yasin Ramadan delivered a speech in which he asserted the firmness of the Iraqi position, which calls for resolving all regional crises in accordance with uniform standards and principles on the basis of the initiative launched by struggler President Saddam Husayn on 12 August 1990. Ramadan asserted that there would be no retreat in this grand confrontation, and that Jerusalem comes first before everything else. Ramadan saluted the anniversary of the inception of the Palestinian revolution, its courageous leadership, and its valiant sons. He also greeted the valiant intifadah being staged by our people, and paid tribute to their unique steadfastness and to their heroic confrontation of the hateful Zionist occupation.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said: In this grand confrontation, all symbols of Arab defiance, pride, and steadfastness in the past, present, and the future are being invoked. In it, Palestine and the liberation of Palestine top all issues pertaining to Arab destiny, because they constitute the crux of the struggle of Arabism against its imperialist and Zionist enemies and their agents, the nation's betrayers and its servile rulers.

Taha Yasin Ramadan added: Palestine is the litmus of international legitimacy. It provides a test for the international law and the UN Charter. Besides, it is the final judge of the seriousness of the UN Security Council and the international community. The failure to resolve the Palestine question, which is the crux of the Arab-Zionist conflict, and to reach a just and durable solution for more than four decades unequivocally shows the grave injustice inflicted on the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. This has been inflicted at the hands of those who are now boasting of embracing human rights and are shedding crocodile tears for international legitimacy and international law while using double standards and shelving at the world body's archives hundreds of resolutions either blocked by the U.S. veto or thrown by the Tel Aviv gang into the dustbin of Zionist arrogance, which enjoys the support of its strategic ally in Washington.

At the end of the speech, brother leader president Abu-'Ammar delivered a lengthy speech in which he affirmed that the imperialist challenges and schemes the Arab nation is now facing are neither the product of the moment nor the offspring of the so-called Gulf crisis, but rather challenges and dangers, whose outlines were drawn up several years ago by the United States of America and its allies.

At the outset of his speech, brother leader Abu-'Ammar asserted that the Palestinian people are determined to continue the struggle against the Zionist occupiers until they realize all of their just and legitimate national objectives which are enshrined in all international charters and norms. He emphasized that it is martyrs who illuminate the path of freedom on the lands of Palestine and give the glad tidings of its victory.

In his speech, brother leader president Abu-'Ammar said that the Palestinian people are standing in the same trench with the Iraqi people to confront the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic buildup of invading troops, which are desecrating Arab lands. Brother leader president Abu-'Ammar affirmed that the Arab will will neither be brought to his knees nor succumb to the U.S.-imperialist-Zionist scheme. He added that he is ready for confronting the injustice of the aggression, no matter how long this takes and regardless of the size of their buildup.

Brother leader president Abu-'Ammar affirmed that the aggressive U.S.-Zionist scheme was drawn up some time ago with the aim of posing threats to Iraq and the Arab nation by expanding Jewish immigration to Palestinian lands and imposing direct hegemony on Arab oil. Brother leader president Abu-'Ammar affirmed that the Zionist enemy, which tops the beneficiaries of the aggression against Iraq and threats to the Arab nation, seeks to realize its hostile policy and establish its grand racist country, extending from the Nile to the Euphrates.

Brother leader president Abu-'Ammar said that struggler President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August, which provides for a linkage among all regional problems, led by the Palestine question, enjoys the support of Arabs and particularly the Palestinians. He added that Iraq gave this present to the sons of Palestine, who were the first to perceive the importance of this linkage. Moreover, this initiative is a response from Arab knight Saddam Husayn to the desires of the Palestinian child, woman, and old man as well as a real confrontation of all forms of Zionist repression, brother leader president Abu-'Ammar said.

Brother leader Abu-'Ammar asserted that Baghdad, Jerusalem, the Arab nation's masses, as well as all freemen of the world are ready for the great confrontation against the U.S.-Zionist expansionist and aggressive scheme that seeks to brings the Arabs to their knees. He added that the results of the confrontation will be in favor of the Arab nation and all militant peoples all over the world, because it is a human confrontation against the schemes of evil, aggression, and hegemony.

Concluding his speech, brother leader president Abu-'Ammar hailed the anniversary of founding the valiant Iraqi Army and indicated that it is the army of Arab will that is standing steadfastly to defend the Arab homeland against the biggest Zionist-U.S. buildup.

Fatah's Khalaf Addresses Palestinian Rally

JN0401201791 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 2 Jan 91 p 8

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah on a public rally held in Amman on 1 January to mark the 26th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Salah Khalaf, member of the Fatah Central Committee, described King Husayn as the symbol of the one Jordanian-Palestinian people and one nation.

He added: No matter where a Palestinian goes, he will only find comfort on this beloved Jordanian shoulder.

Khalaf praised the new democratic era in Jordan, saying that democracy is a great gain, and its absence has been the cause of all our repeated defeats at the hands of our enemies.

He said: We shall not abandon Palestine. We renew the pledge to liberate all of Palestine inch by inch from the sea to the river.

Khalaf said that the Palestinian and Jordanian people will stand by fraternal Iraq in any aggression against it. He called on the Arab people in Syria and Egypt also to stand by Iraq.

He said: How pleased I am to be in my country, Jordan; this country that many midgets have tried to split from its one people and kinfolk. These midgets are now scattered by one great fact; namely, that every Palestinian is Jordanian and every Jordanian is Palestinian.

Khalaf added: How pleased I am to take part in this great rally on a dear occasion; namely, the beginning of the revolution, and not only the founding of Fatah. Fatah's long struggle has become a revolution of the entire Palestinian people and Arab nation.

He said: We have struggled for 30 years within the ranks of this movement. We have known torture, hard struggle, and movement from one place to another. We have not despaired, however, because the blood of our martyrs, the last being that of the prince of martyrs Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] revived us and returned us to the beloved difficult path of the revolution.

He added: If any one of you were to ask me if Fatah had always been right, I would say: we are sometimes right and sometimes wrong. It is no disgrace to err. Those who never make a mistake are those who never take action.

He said: Whoever has read about the experiences of other peoples, must not take us to task for moving from one place to another. He can only take us to task if we betray our faith in liberating Palestine; the whole of Palestine from the river to the sea.

He said: To me, Fatah is national unity. It is not a factional organization. It is the Palestinian people's vanguard. Whoever bears arms is with us on our long journey until victory. Fatah cannot betray the cause.

Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] added: Our conflict with Zionism has not stopped and will not stop. It will continue with arms, knives, stones, and everything that is within our reach. The main thing is that we must continue to fight them, and the fire of struggle must remain alive until we expel the last Zionist from our homeland, Palestine.

He added: We welcome every rifle and every additional effort, provided that we preserve the Palestinian national decisionmaking and struggle identity. He said that Palestine needs all the efforts of our Arab and Islamic nations in order to get rid of the Zionist germ.

Abu-Iyad extended the greetings of the Palestinian revolution to the heroes of the mighty intifadah, saying the intifadah has honored us, just as it has honored every Arab individual, while Arab guns have remained silent. He said the intifadah has also reaffirmed that the Palestinian people will not tolerate Zionist arrogance and cruelty forever.

Abu-Iyad told those who criticized the Palestinian political initiative: We presented this initiative while knowing that Zionism and the United States were against it. The main thing is that our confidence in our objective to liberate all of Palestine has not been and will not be shaken.

He asked: I can understand the United States and Israel getting angry because we rejected the humiliating dialogue with it. But what I cannot understand is why do some Arabs, including the Egyptians, insist that we should resume this humiliating dialogue as soon as possible before it becomes too late?!!

He said: We know everything about the solution. Our enemy will not give us any part of our land if we are not strong.

He also asked: Why are some Arab states furious with the Palestinians because the PLO demands a peaceful Arab solution to the Gulf problem and links with it all the issues of the Middle East region?

He asked: When will [Arab] wealth be the master and the means to enforce Arab decisions? Our people, along with the Jordanian, Iraqi, and Yemeni peoples, will never bow their heads or bargain over pan-Arab decisions.

He said: We reject the unfortunate starvation and destitution of our people by our own brothers.

Abu-Iyad described Saddam Husayn as a brave leader, adding: There is a big difference between Saddam the hero and any Arab head of state who asks us to bow according to the old popular saying: Call a dog sir and hang him!!

Abu-Iyad attacked some Egyptian papers for leveling accusations against the Palestinian people, and praised the role of the Egyptian opposition papers.

He added: We have known the nobility of the Egyptian people and the greatness of their army when they stood by the people of Palestine and the Arab nation. We will not forget, however, that the worst day in the life of every Palestinian and Arab was when al-Sadat went to Jerusalem while the Israeli flag waved over his head.

He said: Egypt is great. It is the heart of the Arab nation. It will not abandon what it believes in.

Abu-Iyad wondered: Why do some Arab states instill fear in our hearts about the armies of imperialism and its allies? He said that Iraq, Palestine, Jordan, and all peoples do not fear the United States and its defeated armies, God willing.

Abu-Iyad warned these Arab states, saying: The war will not end in a few hours, as they are told by their American overlords. It will envelop them also. They will be its fuel.

He warned: The Egyptian and Syrian soldiers will only side with Iraq in this honorable battle, if it takes place.

Abu-Iyad emphasized the necessity of linking the Palestine question with all the region's issues, including the Gulf crisis. He wondered: Why are some Arab rulers against this linkage, although it is a historic opportunity for our nation?

Abu-Iyad denied rumors that a meeting took place between PLO and Israeli officials concerning the establishment of autonomy in Gaza. He said that the PLO rejects any solution that does not establish the Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its eternal capital. [passage omitted]

[A WAFA press release dated 2 January adds the following: "Salah Khalaf added: "The least we can accept is an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza with Jerusalem as its capital. We reject what is less than this. And this is a pledge we make to ourselves, to our honor, and to Fatah's honor."]

PLO Kuwait Envoy on Palestinian Losses, Needs

JN0801135391 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Jan 91 p 3

[By Musa Hawamidah in Amman]

[Excerpts] Our losses as a Palestinian community in Kuwait have been enormous. The battle with the United States, however, is much greater than this loss. As Palestinian officials who have had every opportunity

blocked, despite all the initiatives we presented—some of which were considered concessions—when we find an Arab country, an Arab army, and an Arab president who challenges the United States and its ally Israel, links our cause with the cause of oil, and insists that UN resolutions be implemented chronologically, then all we can do is stand behind that country and not just alongside it.

This is what Mr. Salim Za'nun, Abu-al-Adib, told AL-DUSTUR. Salim Za'nun is the deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC] and member of the Fatah Central Committee and its representative in Kuwait and the Gulf for over 20 years, and who has remained in Kuwait since the beginning of the crisis to stop the Palestinian emigration from there.

Mr. Za'nun said that our losses exceed $10 billion. This includes everything that used to reach the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as well as what reached the east bank in the form of investments and savings. The PLO is currently paying huge sums to reduce the problems of the community in Kuwait. There is a social committee stemming from the committee for supporting the intifadah which consists of a number of PNC members, heads of popular federations, and Palestinian faction representatives. The Palestinian leadership has transferred a sum of money from which the committee can spend on each unemployed person the sum of 200 Iraqi dinars if married, and 150 Iraqi dinars if single. I receive the balance sheet every evening, which shows that we pay 70,000 Iraqi dinars a day, apart from another 20,000 Iraqi dinars for foodstuffs daily, which we now must provide for sheltered families and orphans who used to receive money from the alms committees and financing house. [passage omitted]

Regarding the situation the Palestinians are going through, he said: We, as a peaceful unarmed Palestinian community, need to have a certain margin in which to move. This is why the community distanced itself from everything that could arouse any sensitivities in any party. As far as education is concerned, the Palestinian leadership's decision was to continue attending schools and universities regularly. This created a sensitive situation with the other party, and this is why the community suffered incidents to the extent where the husband of a teacher was killed and eight students were shot outside a school. One of them died, and the others were injured. Explosions are occurring in the new markets appearing around the city, in the squares and streets, and nobody knows who is responsible. We should note that it is in the interest of the Israeli Mossad and other such people among the foreign intelligence to carry out suspect attacks and arouse doubts among the communities there.

Algeria

FLN Urges Mass Demonstrations in Case of War

LD0901153191 Algiers APS in Arabic 1450 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Algiers, 9 Jan (APS)—In anticipation of a possible failure of efforts to avert a destructive war in the Middle East, the National Liberation Front [FLN] Political Bureau has issued instruction for mass demonstration to be staged in every Algerian town and village on the first day of the war. These demonstrations will be the start of a broad campaign to demand an end to the war, the evacuation of foreign troops from Arab land and the peaceful resolution of the Middle East problems.

Ghazali To Visit Luxembourg for Gulf Talks

LD0901111391 Algiers APS in English 1013 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Algiers, 9 Jan (APS)—After his visit to Bonn last weekend, the Algerian foreign minister, Sid Ahmed Ghazali went yesterday to Luxembourg in order to have talks with his counterpart, Jacques Poos who ensures [words indistinct] the EEC foreign ministerial council.

These consultations deal with the situation in the Gulf after the examinations made by the European ministers before the meeting of Geneva which will take place today between the American Secretary of State James Baker and the Iraqi Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

According to the Algerian side these consultations allow an exchange of views so [words indistinct] prevail a logic of dialogue. In this context, one can also note the visit of the French Secretary General of the Elysee Bianco to Algiers holding a message from President Francois Mitterrand to the Algerian head of state Chadli Bendjedid.

These intensive diplomatic efforts in which Algeria has an active part aims at bringing closer the conflicted sides in a perspective of a peaceful solution safeguarding the Gulf region from a disastrous war. In this frame the political observers noted the efforts made by President Chadli Bendjedid during his tours in the Gulf, the Middle East, Europe and the Maghreb. Such an Algerian contribution was considered by the "WASHINGTON POST" as being promising in the seeking of peace.

Prime Minister Hamrouche Returns From Morocco

LD0901112491 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche returned this evening to Algeria after paying an official two-day visit to the Kingdom of Morocco. [passage omitted]

Prior to his departure from Morocco, radio correspondent Hizia Hideb interviewed the prime minister and asked him first to assess his visit to Morocco:

[Begin recording] [Hideb] Hamrouche, after two days of consultations and contacts with Moroccan authorities, foremost with Azzedine Laraki, what is your assessment of the Algerian-Moroccan talks in the context of [word indistinct] and the strengthening of bilateral relations?

[Hamrouche] Indeed, this visit falls, first and foremost, within the context of bilateral relations. The results, my initial assessment of these results, is that we have agreed to give real momentum to bilateral cooperation in various spheres, especially with regard to the exchange and movement of goods and persons. More importantly, we agreed that these relations and political stances should result in tangible measures that would affect citizens in the each of the two countries, Moroccan citizens in Algeria and Algerian citizens in Morocco. In this context, agreement was reached on tangible and practical measures regarding residence permits and periods of residence. These will be implemented immediately. The other measure concerns the properties of the two countries' communities, and there are two committees working in this context. During the coming few weeks measures will also be taken to consider issues that are outstanding from before.

[Hideb] Mouloud Hamrouche, you also met opposition party leaders. Why this meeting, especially as it was not declared in your itinerary?

[Hamrouche] The meeting with the political parties comes in the context of exchanging views and information on what is happening on the Maghreban arena as a whole, and on what is happening in the Algerian arena and in the two experiments in Morocco and Algeria. This meeting is only an exchange of such views and an exchange [words indistinct] because, being influencers of social groups, political parties should know what takes place between governments, what measures will be taken, and what measures will be studied during the coming weeks. In this way, all the people would be informed, the citizens would be informed, and the parties would be informed [words indistinct] in this sphere. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Sues Renewal Party for Slander

LD0801203391 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] APS has learned from a source close to the Ministry of National Defense that the latter has filed a slander charge at the office of the public prosecutor at El Mourad Rais court against the leader of the Algerian Renewal Party. [Nourredine] Boukrouh [leader of the Renewal Party] made statements at a conference in Blida on 30 December that were considered by the National People's Army as slanderous against it.

Bendjedid Receives Mitterrand Message

LD0801190591 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] A statement by the presidency of the republic announced that President Chadli Bendjedid today at the presidency received Jean-Louis Bianco, secretary general of the French presidency and President Francois Mitterrand's personal envoy, who conveyed a message from Mitterrand to President Bendjedid.

Statement Welcomes Malian Internal Dialogue

LD0701131191 Algiers APS in English 1100 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Algiers, 7 Jan (APS)—"Algeria notes with deep satisfaction that an agreement was reached at a meeting held between emissaries of Mali and representatives of the Targui community of this brotherly country and which is the crowning of a series of meetings held on the Algerian soil", the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry said in a statement issued Sunday. Algeria, the statement went on, is rejoiced about this happy denouement which has put an end to fratricidal events lived through by Mali. It expressed the hope that the agreement reached in the Tamanrasset will restore a lasting stability and understanding in this neighbouring country which will thus free all its energies to face up the challenges of national development in the benefit of all the Malian people.

The agreement [word indistinct] in Tamanrasset, the statement added, is the front of a national Malian dialogue which Algeria has favored as it reflects the prevalence of virtues of dialogue to which all the countries of area are attached and which marked the summit which gathered around President Chadli Bendjedid heads of state of Mali, Niger, and Libya.

Algeria will use this reconciliation as to work for the materialization of all commitments undertaken by countries that took part in the Djanet summit for the consolidation of stability and understanding in the Subsaharan area, the statement concluded.

Egypt

Major 'Delighted' Following Mubarak Talks

LD0901143591 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1356 GMT 9 Jan 91

[By PRESS ASSOCIATION political editor Chris Moncrieff in Cairo]

[Text] The prime minister today ruled out the need to recall the UN Security Council to consider the use of force to remove the Iraqis from Kuwait if Saddam Husayn refused to comply with the January 15 deadline. Mr Major made this clear at a news conference in Cairo at the end of his four-day whirlwind tour of the Middle East, following talks with President Mubarak of Egypt.

He said: "There is no need for this to be referred back to the United Nations at all. The Security Council resolutions are entirely clear. They were entirely clear when they were tabled, they were entirely clear when they were debated, and they were entirely clear when they were voted upon." And he underlined: "There is no need to go back at all. I see no justification for doing so."

Mr Major was speaking while the crucial Geneva talks between US Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz were still in progress.

The prime minister said Saddam should understand he was entirely on his own in world opinion over his occupation of Kuwait.

Mr Major conceded that there should be concern about the environment in any conflict. But he made clear that the first priority was the removal of the Iraqi invading forces from Kuwait. He said: "If there were a conflict, there would be some ecological difficulties.

Mr Major said assessments of these difficulties had been "dramatically overstated". "There is a difficulty, but what has happened in Kuwait needs to be dealt with," he said. "Although one is concerned about the environmental impact of any conflict anywhere, it is necessary to deal with this problem and the sooner it is done the better. I hope it can be done peaceably, but that, alas, is not in our hands."

Mr Major said he did not believe Israel was going to be involved. "Israel have kept well clear of it, and I think that is right. I hope and believe that the situation will not arise."

The prime minister added: "I hope that the matter is going to be resolved either by Saddam Husayn withdrawing or by the allies. But if he simply thinks he can escape the difficulties in which he has landed himself by a partial withdrawal, then that is not acceptable."

Earlier the prime minister said he was delighted, following his talks with President Mubarak, that the positions of the British and Egyptian Governments were precisely the same. "I found an absolute determination among my Egyptian colleagues here that Saddam Husayn would have to withdraw from Kuwait," he said.

"I should make it absolutely clear that nobody wants to go to war. We want the matter settled by Saddam Husayn getting out of Kuwait."

The prime minister was asked whether British public opinion was in favour of a conflict if the Iraqis did not leave Kuwait. Mr Major said: "British public opinion has been remarkably resolute so far, and so has opinion in the House of Commons as well."

Another questioner asked whether he agreed with the soldiers he saw who had said they wanted the matter speedily dealt with. He replied: "It is for the politicians to decide, for good or ill, when action should be taken."

The prime minister, who flies home tonight, has emerged from the tour confident that the British contingent in the multi-national force is 100 percent ready and keyed up for battle. His cool, low-key style as he addressed the military was a far cry from the rhetoric of Margaret Thatcher, but the resolve was no less firm. The military was not expecting a Thatcher-style harangue but still seemed surprised by Mr Major's easy going and genial manner. Mr Major made no secret of his admiration for the way the 34,000-strong British force has adopted itself so quickly to the hostile desert conditions with now less than a week to go to the UN deadline.

During the visit the prime minister disclosed a new dimension to his resolve that Saddam had to be "dealt with" swiftly.

Whatever the outcome of the crisis—peaceably or by conflict—Mr Major believes there will have to be a permanent security force in the region to prevent any future conflicts. The British view is that this would be unlikely to contain other than Arab troops.

The government is facing the cost of financing this huge military enterprise but the prime minister has made clear he would not be counting the pennies when it came to ensuring that British troops in the desert were properly equipped.

Holds News Conference on Gulf

NC0901161791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jan (MENA)—British Prime Minister John Major announced that he discussed the Gulf crisis during his talks with President Husni Mubarak. He added that the Egyptian and British stands are nearly identical on this crisis.

In a news conference he held this afternoon, Major warned that the coming days are extremely important, and that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn must keep this in mind and withdraw from Kuwait.

Regarding the prospects for the situation should Israel intervene in the Gulf crisis, the British prime minister declared that he believes that Israel will not do so. Major stressed that the recent Security Council resolution on this crisis is a clear one that stipulates there will be no military action before the 15 January deadline.

The British prime minister praised Egyptian-British relations and described them as excellent.

Major's news conference lasted 20 minutes and was attended by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and James Adams, British ambassador in Cairo.

At the beginning of his news conference, Major said he was pleased to meet President Husni Mubarak and noted that his talks with President Mubarak, Prime Minister Sidqi, and Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid had provided an opportunity to exchange views on the situation resulting from Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait by force. He added that the talks with President Mubarak had shown that the Egyptian-British views on the crisis are identical.

The British prime minister said he had found Egyptian officials determined about the need for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait and to implement the Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis in full and as fast as possible. Major emphasized that he has no doubts about the position of Egypt and the Egyptian Government.

Major noted that while in the region over the past few days, he spent some time with the British troops in Saudi Arabia.

Major added: I would like to note the international appreciation for Egypt's participation in the multinational forces in the Gulf. Egypt, he added, has made tangible progress in transferring its troops to Hafar al-Batin region in Saudi Arabia. Major, on behalf of the EC, expressed his gratitude to the Egyptian Government for the way and speed with which it responded to the crisis. He said his talks in Egypt are all the more significant on this particularly important day on which other equally important talks are being held in Geneva. These talks give a further indication that President Saddam Husayn is standing alone today against the entire world and world public opinion, he added.

The British prime minister noted that President Mubarak had suggested that he pay another visit to Egypt when circumstances permit. He affirmed that he is eager to respond to this graceful invitation from President Mubarak and described Egyptian-British relations as currently excellent. Major noted that he had also discussed a number of issues of common interest to both Egypt and Britain.

Major then answered a question on the catastrophe that might result from the use of biological weapons and the detonation of oil wells, thus making the resort to the military option to resolve the Gulf crisis more difficult. He said: I would like to point out that nobody wants to go to war. We want to achieve peace through the withdrawal of Saddam Husayn from Kuwait and the return of his troops to Iraq, and this is how I see peace being achieved. He added: It is Saddam Husayn, and not the allies there, who is obstructing peace. Nobody can deny that there will be some difficulties as a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and we must deal according to this understanding. He stressed that the world is interested in ecological problems everywhere, not just in this region. He stressed that this problem must be dealt with and the best solution found for it. He hoped that this will be done peacefully, but he added: The matter is not in our hands.

When asked if he thinks there will be a change of position if Israel intervenes in the Gulf crisis, Major said: I do not believe Israel will intervene; Israel has made that clear, and I think that is right.

He added that the situation will be handled by the allies' troops there if it is not resolved by Saddam Husayn's voluntary withdrawal.

On whether he and President Mubarak had discussed the security arrangements that could be made in the region, Major said this matter has not been decided upon yet because it concerns several Gulf countries that must participate in it. He added: Over the last few days, I have had a chance to discuss this matter with a number of officials in the Gulf and to inquire about their positions when the Gulf crisis is over. He added: It is clear that there will be some difficulties, regardless of how the crisis will end. He noted that there is a general understanding that the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] needs to study the security arrangements required in the region. The GCC also needs to discuss them with other parties. He added: Security in the region must be ensured. Several discussions must be held and many issues taken into consideration and crystalized before a positive ruling on how to deal with this matter is made. He stressed that this must be decided by the Arab states themselves.

Major noted that he had discussed this matter with President Mubarak and pointed out that this subject is in its preliminary stages with nothing yet decided. He added: We discussed and agreed upon this, and this is the viewpoint of the other Arab leaders.

Regarding the U.S. role in the post-crisis security arrangements in the Gulf, the British prime minister said this matter will be determined after the GCC has discussed the matter and after the countries that will participate in these arrangements, be they Arab or non-Arab, have been named. He added: The important thing is to identify the problem and the difficulties; then, finding a solution will be easy.

Asked if he and President Mubarak had discussed the possibility of Israel's participation in the Gulf crisis and whether the president will pull out his troops [from Saudi Arabia] in such a case, Major said: I have already expressed my belief that Israel will not get involved in this crisis in any circumstances. He added: I hope Israel will not intervene in this crisis in any way.

Asked about the position of the Labor Party, which is against the rush toward the military option, and whether British public opinion is in favor of military action immediately after 15 January, Major said: I believe that British public opinion is to a great extent clear—not only the opinion of the British public, but of the House of Commons as well.

He added: I debated Gulf issues several days ago in the House of Commons in the wake of the Security Council resolutions to learn about the effects of this resolution. Four hundred members of the House of Commons backed the government policy in this respect. He added: I have no reason to doubt that British public opinion agrees with the government about this crisis.

Asked if he believed an early military operation could be launched, the British prime minister said: The Security Council resolution is clear, and it stipulated that there will be no military action before 15 January. What happens after this date is to be considered, but nobody has any doubts that the allies will not implement this resolution.

Asked if he objects to returning to the Security Council before beginning military action if the Iraqi troops do not withdraw by 15 January, Major said: There is absolutely no need to return to the United Nations. The Security Council resolution was very clear when it was debated and voted upon, so there is absolutely no need to return to the Security Council, and in my opinion, no justification for this.

John Major was asked about British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd's statement in which he said that the Palestinian issue will be resolved after the Gulf crisis has been resolved. He was also asked whether the same methods used in resolving the Gulf crisis would be adopted for solving the Palestinian issue. Major replied: I believe that after the Gulf crisis is resolved, it will be necessary to hold an international conference to address and to examine the multisided Palestinian issue. He added: This had been our stand before the disruption resulting from the invasion of Kuwait. We will uphold this stand again along with all the Arab countries once this crisis is over. We have always been advocates of holding an international conference to resolve this problem, and we see that it is the ideal way.

On how a decision for war will be made after 15 January, he said that the resolution to use force is there but that the politicians are the ones who will decide when the military operations begin should the need arise for a military action.

He added: We do not want to wait so long that Saddam Husayn will develop his weapons into nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.

He was asked: If Saddam Husayn announces his withdrawal on 15 January, will you accept that or will you need to refer to the Security Council? The British prime minister replied: The Security Council resolution calling for an unconditional withdrawal by Iraq as soon as possible and by 15 January is quite clear. Any partial withdrawal is unacceptable, and we had asserted this during our talks in Cairo today.

Asked whether he and President Mubarak had discussed the Egyptian forces' role in possible military operations, he said that this issue had in the past been discussed by military leaders and that this subject was not discussed with the president today.

Asked whether his view of the crisis has changed since he left London, he answered: Only a few days have passed since I left London, and Saddam Husayn has not withdrawn, which is very regrettable. Before my arrival here

I had intended to discuss some matters; however, talks are taking place in Geneva today and are still continuing.

Major concluded the news conference by saying: I hope Saddam Husayn will adopt a rational position, realize the seriousness of what he did, and decide to withdraw.

Departs After 'Important' Talks

NC0901152591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1443 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jan (MENA)—British Prime Minister John Major left Cairo for home after a short visit to Egypt that lasted for a few hours. During his stay, Major held important talks with President Mubarak. Major was seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi.

Paper Views 'Aziz-Baker Talks, Withdrawal

JN0801073091 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 6 Jan 91 p 7

[Editorial: "Problems of a Political Settlement"]

[Text] Saddam Husayn is bound to alienate the whole world if he remains impervious to all calls and appeals to subordinate base instincts of brute force and bragging to the voice of reason and peace.

Each in its own way, the United States and Europe are pursuing peace in the Gulf. The indications are, though, that the talks [between Secretary Baker and Iraq's Tariq 'Aziz] will be to sound each other out, with the two sides warning of the dire consequences of war and the advantages of reconciliation, and the session getting no further.

Chances are that the talks will drag on with each side trying to probe the other's position, and Europe stepping in to play a role somewhat free from the constraints reining in the Americans. Should some progress be made down this road—say by Saddam Husayn showing developable flexibility—the two sides could conceivably arrive at a tacit and discreet agreement to extend the 15 January deadline so as to open a window of opportunity for a degree of understanding.

In any case, withdrawal per se has problems of its own—the timetable; inspection procedures to verify compliance with the decision to pull out; the status and administration of liberated territory; potential foot-dragging in respect of withdrawal; and other unforeseen or accidental developments. There are other snags to be sorted out. For example: Will the troop strength on the other side be cut to match whatever level of force reduction is carried out by the occupation forces, or will they stay put pending a total withdrawal? And what kind of guarantees will be sought to ensure that there will be no repetition of the Iraqi aggression in the future?

Such countless complications may crop up as may make the consolidation of a peaceful settlement seem far more complex than the decision to go to war!

Commentary Calls Geneva Meeting 'Last Chance'

NC0901195991 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Ibrahim Wahbi commentary: "The Geneva Meeting is the Last Chance for the Gulf Crisis"]

[Text] Regardless of the intransigent statements and counter-statements on the Gulf crisis and regardless of Baghdad and Washington's adherence to their stands on the crisis, the meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Geneva provides a door for either retreat or progress. It will also be the last chance before the green light is given for military operations, which will then ignore all appeals for peace and all warnings of the moderate states on a destructive war's breaking out if the ruler of Iraq insists on ignoring the voice of reason, logic, and justice by preferring to keep his occupation of Kuwait, thus defying the world and sacrificing his safety and security.

The Geneva meeting is necessary, not to explore the prospects for peace or to confirm intentions, but to find legal means and justifications necessitated by international law and the UN charter, which make war the last recourse after all peaceful methods are exhausted. The Geneva meeting might be the final point in the peaceful attempts or the starting point in a destructive and ferocious war. We do not believe that James Baker will accept a conditional and fragile peace; otherwise, he will create another Munich, which led to World War II. Then British Prime Minister Chamberlain met with Nazi Germany's chancellor in Munich and concluded with him a fragile agreement, which Hitler later trampled and exploited to occupy Europe, to confront Britain, and to advance toward the Middle East. Therefore, we say that Baker will insist that there be no negotiations, no compromises, and no concessions that will sacrifice an iota of the situation that existed before Iraq's occupation of Kuwait on 2 August.

On the eve of the Geneva meeting the Iraqi foreign minister said that he sees no prospects of the Iraqi forces leaving Kuwait by 15 January. On the other hand, Baker said that his meeting with Tariq 'Aziz might be the last and best chance for peace. He will, however, welcome other chances that might appear before midnight 15 January. The European countries support the U.S. stand. In his talks with Baker today, 'Aziz will not be able to speak about any Arab issue or to exploit it as a bargaining chip because all the Arab states without exception reject Iraq's occupation and demand that the situation be restored to what it was before 2 August. Even the small number of ministates under Iraq's control have not dared to approve the Iraqi behavior. Moreover, all the Arab states know that they are more concerned about the Palestinian issue than the ruler of Iraq. They are defending the Palestinian people as they are defending the Kuwaiti people and even the Iraqi people who are suffering at the hands of their ruler. Even if the Iraqi

president involves his people in a destructive war, the Arabs will struggle to save the Iraqi people.

President Mubarak declared frankly and without ambiguity that Egypt rejects Israel's intervention in the war if it breaks out and that if Israel intervenes, Egypt will adopt a different stand. Therefore, in his talks with Baker, Tariq 'Aziz will not be able to rely on the Arab nation. He will also not be able to rely on Europe, which has declared it stands side-by-side with the United States. He will not be able to rely on the support of the Soviet Union, which has declared that there is nothing to justify an extension of the deadline set by the Security Council.

Hence, we see that the whole world stands on one side and the Iraqi Government on the other. Therefore, we say that the Geneva meeting is a last chance which must be exploited. In effect, 15 January will be the dividing line between war and peace.

AL-AHRAM Says Bush Gave Saddam 'Final Warning'

NC1001073191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0655 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA)—In its editorial today, the newspaper AL-AHRAM says that the message from U.S. President George Bush to Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn, which U.S. Secretary of State James Baker conveyed to Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz during the Geneva meetings, was a clear and final warning to Saddam Husayn to withdraw from Kuwait or face war.

Washington, the paper says, has from the beginning been careful to follow the established procedure for war. Washington started with protests, moved on to rallying forces and supporters and the imposition of sanctions, and then gave Saddam every chance to follow a course of peace and reconciliation. Washington then addressed a formal warning to Saddam that it will wage war if he does not retract his steps.

The paper says that during the recent period of war preparations the idea of waiting for economic sanctions, which took so long to impose on Iraq, to achieve their full impact has been excluded from the ongoing planning. The sanctions, the paper added, have played their role as part of the campaign for preparations and camouflage that usually accompany the move from one phase to another in time of war. The paper remarks that the previous phases have also exhausted their purposes and the situation is now in the decisive phase.

AL-AHRAM warns that if war takes place, nonconventional means, methods, or weapons will be employed to counter the "chaos" that Saddam Husayn has created since the first day of the invasion and through which he hoped to dominate the region and divide the international consensus.

Columnist Views Failure of Geneva Meeting

NC1001085191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH chief editor Mahfuz al-Ansari stresses that with the end of the Geneva meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his Iraqi counterpart Tariq 'Aziz, the world is witnessing the evolution of the Gulf crisis provoked by Saddam Husayn into a new phase in which new criteria will be applied and new methods will be used.

In a column published by the paper today, the writer notes President George Bush's persistent efforts to win congressional support for using all means necessary to implement all Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis, including the use of force. He adds that a congressional decision on this could reduce the room for maneuvering available to the Iraqi president. He says that the United States will find itself in a difficult position if it allows the Iraqi president to continue his occupation of Kuwait under any pretext and that such a situation could lead to divisions in the international consensus on the crisis that emerged at the Security Council.

Mahfuz al-Ansari then writes that under no circumstances can there be any pardon or forgiveness for Saddam Husayn's mistakes because we are facing a man who is uneducated and ignorant, who is incapable of reading between the lines, and who cannot understand what he reads. We are facing a man who does not understand the nature of the modern world in whose leadership he wishes to participate. He added: Terrorism has become the scourge of the modern world, but Saddam Husayn is attempting to use it as a weapon. The world has begun eliminating weapons, but he is building up his own arsenal. Superpowers that relied on military might are collapsing and being replaced by superpowers that rely on science, production, economy, and technology, but he is trying to build his own superpower at a time when no one will allow any new military power to rise. In the age of democracy and its sweeping winds, he is a dictator who does not hesitate to destroy his people, his nation, and the world for the sake of his own interests. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Ghali on Lebanese, Gulf Issues

NC0601164691 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Dr. Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that the main steps toward a solution in Lebanon have begun. He said great hope lies in cooperation among the Lebanese leaders to overcome the obstacles to a peaceful solution so that Lebanon can regain its pioneering role in the Arab world.

In an interview with Paula Hariqah in Cairo, Ghali said that circumstances are now completely appropriate for national reconciliation. This can be achieved without having to wait for a peaceful settlement in the Gulf

because the Gulf crisis is not directly connected with national reconciliation in Lebanon.

Ghali told our radio that the Israeli occupation matter is connected with the Gulf to a certain extent. As soon as the Gulf crisis is over, the Middle East crisis will be dealt with, whether with regard to the occupied [Arab] territories or the occupied Lebanese territory. He said that Egypt can play an important role in promoting the reconciliation that has already begun and that must be boosted.

Regarding the possibility of negotiations with President Saddam Husayn, Ghali said that Egypt is prepared to assist however possible toward a peaceful settlement. He added: If necessary, Egypt is fully prepared to hold contacts. He indicated that the Egyptian forces in the Gulf are under the Saudi command and that it is their duty to defend Saudi territory.

Concluding his interview with our radio, Butrus Ghali hoped that national reconciliation will continue and that Lebanon will regain its pioneering role in the intellectual field and in the exchange of views with various parts of the world.

Welcomes UN Role in Gulf Conflict

NC0901214391 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Commenting on the results of the Geneva talks, Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that Egypt still hopes that the political efforts which will be undertaken before 15 January will contribute to achieving a peaceful settlement of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti conflict. He said that the U.S. secretary of state has referred to a role which the UN secretary general can undertake in this regard and that Egypt welcomes this role. This is because Egyptian diplomacy has always maintained that the United Nations should play a role in settling international conflicts by peaceful means.

Nationals, Saudi Ambassador Arrive From Somalia

NC0801064991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0100 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jan (MENA)—An Egyptian Boeing 707 arrived in Cairo from Mogadishu tonight carrying 150 Egyptian nationals, the Saudi ambassador to Somalia, and four other members of the Saudi Embassy there.

Shaykh Mahmud al-Sabaki, an Egyptian national and secretary of the al-Azhar mission to Somalia, stated that the situation in that country has been disorderly since 1 January when all shops and markets closed. He said this caused an acute food shortage. He also reported that a number of Egyptians in Somalia left for Kenya with the assistance of the International Red Cross.

Foreign Minister on Egyptians Remaining in Somalia

NC0801153891 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Dr. 'Isma' 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that because of the situation in Somalia, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has taken the necessary measures to bring back the Egyptian nationals. An Egyptian plane was sent there, and Saudi Arabia helped by bringing some of them back.

He added that the Egyptian ambassador in Somalia assured the Foreign Ministry that the remaining Egyptian citizens are well. Their return is being coordinated with the Italian and French Governments.

Syrian Envoy Presents Credentials to Arab League

NC0901155491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1357 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jan (MENA)—As'ad al-As'ad, Arab League acting secretary general, today received Dr. 'Isa Darwish, Syria's ambassador in Cairo, who handed him his credentials as Syria's permanent delegate to the Arab League.

In a statement after the meeting, the Syrian ambassador affirmed that the Arab League will remain the home of all Arabs. He added that as a founding member state, Syria insists that the Arab League be strengthened so that it can overcome the transitory crises and remain a pan-Arab edifice. Ambassador Darwish noted that the current developments require a collective stand and hoped that the Iraqi leadership will comply with international legitimacy and with the resolutions issued at Cairo Arab summit in August, thus averting a catastrophe that could befall the Iraqi people and all Arabs.

The Syrian ambassador praised the strong ties linking Egypt and Syria and emphasized that important measures to reaffirm this linkage will actually materialize as part of bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Correction to Mubarak Views War, Israel Involvement

NC0901192791

The following correction pertains to the item subheaded "Views War, Israel's Involvement," under the headline "Mubarak Visits Book Fair, Comments on Gulf," published in the 9 January Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 1:

Page 2, Column one, fourth full paragraph, from end of last sentence to read: . . . a different stand. [innana la nuwafiq 'ala an tadkhul isra'il fi azmat al-khalij aw an tatadakhkhal 'askariyan waila sayakun lana mawqif mukhalif] . . . (supplying vernacular for last two sentences)

Morocco

Saudi Defense Minister Thanks Moroccan Envoy

LD0901194191 Rabat MAP in English 1210 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, Jan. 9 (MAP)—Saudi Defense Minister Amir Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz expressed appreciation and thanks to King Hassan II for his courageous stances particularly in the Gulf crisis.

Amir Sultan made the statement here Tuesday while meeting Moroccan ambassador to Saudi Arabia Ahmed Ramzi who bid him farewell at the end of his mission in Saudi Arabia.

Algeria's Hamrouche Begins Official Visit 7 Jan

LD0701180591 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Excerpts] [Announcer] The Algerian prime minister, Mr Mouloud Hamrouche, arrived in Rabat this morning at the head of an important delegation on an official visit to our country.

Mr Mouloud Hamrouche was welcomed at Rabat-Sale Airport by Dr Azzedine Laraki, the prime minister. After having listened to both national anthems, the two prime ministers inspected a unit of the Moroccan Royal Air Force. Then they were greeted by members of the government, representatives of the Arab diplomatic corps accredited in Rabat, and ambassadors of both fraternal countries.

At the airport VIP hall, the Algerian prime minister made the following statement to journalists:

[Begin Hamrouche recording] Thanks be to God the merciful, the compassionate. My brother prime minister Azzedine Laraki: Today I pay an official visit to the soil of brotherly Morocco which enjoys a special place in the heart of every Algerian. I pay this visit at the kind invitation from my brother and colleague prime minister, Azzedine Laraki.

This visit stems foremost from the unionist dynamism promoted by the leaders of Maghreban states, particularly His Majesty King Hassan II and President Chadli Bendjedid, through their continuous work and their firm determination to implement the idea of Maghreb unity in the collective lives of our peoples.

I have come to this country with two objective issues: The first and obvious issue, as I see it, is that the great potential at our disposal in all human, land, and underwater fields should greatly enrich the results achieved so far, and consolidate economic, financial, and trade relations between us, and guarantee the prosperity of Maghreban integration.

The second issue is that I am convinced that the steps achieved since the Zeralda historic initiative, which was bolstered by a number of inventive summits, is inevitably leading us today to a path of no return, it is consolidating a renewed meeting of peoples, and affirming that the common Maghreban identity is the unique channel and the permanent foundation for the great achievements that benefit each Maghreban country.

Therefore, there should be consolidation of solidarity regarding our peoples, their united destiny and the inevitable rapprochment amongst them in the era of big economic groupings, and expand their bilateral relations. All these factors form an incentive for preparing for the Maghreban factor in light of the need for the integrity of the necessary development elements, if we are determined to avoid clashes of our economies and relations of dependency and their repercussions with regard to the outside world [as heard].

From this moment we can sense great hopes for a vision of a possible establishment of the Maghreb, and guaranteeing its integrity regarding its geopolitical surrounding in which everybody is equal, and in its capacity as an important and not a marginal factor as far as the North is concerned.

Both Algeria and Morocco are capable of achieving a great deal within the context of joint action and thus guarantee tomorrow's great promises in a world that is undergoing fundamental changes characterized by significant scientific and technological prosperity.

Our bilateral initiative finds itself faced with three directions if we are to attain our due position in this world. This will not be achieved by remembering the glories of the past, but by having the firm conviction that the deep-rooted historic, cultural, and religious relations represent the fresh seed for the ambition that is encouraging us to be among developed nations of the world.

First of all, it is clear that we should direct our attention to the essential mission which is to guarantee the free movement of people and properties through the removal of all obstacles that are hindering or restricting the inventive abilities of our citizens. These citizens also are called on to show more work, effort, and invention to firmly establish our common edifice. I also believe that it is essential to consolidate the constituent ties among our countries through harmonizing laws and structures, and the continuous development of the legislature and freedom to meet the natural needs of genuine societies that aspire to be in step with the requirements of the twenty first century.

Therefore, we should include in our policies all initiatives that are likely to guarantee a continuous development of economic activity between our two countries while the world surrounding us is drawing the boundaries for economic and particularly cultural competition. We do not want to see force used as the decisive element in international relations as is the case these days from a number of crises and from which some people still suffer as hostages.

Today we should achieve everything that can be achieved. This is the ongoing request of our two peoples and a key to our common destiny. Because of all this, I have come to Morocco to work alongside my brother Azzedine Laraki, and pinpoint the sensitive elements that are in harmony with the aspirations of our two peoples within the comprehensive scope as laid down by the leaders of our two states. Thank you. [end recording]

[Announcer] Answering questions from Algerian journalists on the visit of Mr Mouloud Hamrouche, the Algerian prime minister; Dr Azzedine Laraki, the prime minister said:

[Begin Laraki recording] The agenda of the visit is big and comprehensive, and I believe that each Maghreban state, when it assumes the chairmanship of the groups, does its best so that the presidency can be an opportunity for more achievements. [passage omitted]

As mentioned by my brother and colleague Mr Mouloud Hamrouche a short while ago, I believe that our peoples should feel and realize this achieved progress. However, these peoples will not be able to do so practically unless freedom of movement is achieved: freedom of movement of peoples and goods. Only then, will the citizen in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and Mauritania feel that something has actually changed within this group.

As for our expectations from the visit of the respected prime minister, Mouloud Hamrouche, I can say that we expect a great deal. First of all we expect to establish human relations between the delegation accompanying him and its Moroccan counterpart, and to consolidate the personal relations that will facilitate the future edification of bilateral relations. Through these relations, we will be able to define and establish the pillars for the Greater Maghreb, God willing. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Received by King Hassan

LD0801225691 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Hassan II accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed and His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid at the Royal Court in Rabat received in audience Algerian Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche who is paying an official visit to our country.

The meeting was tete-a-tete and lasted about one hour. [passage omitted]

Talks Underline Democracy

LD0801142491 Rabat MAP in English 1250 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Rabat, Jan 8 (MAP)—'The completion of the Arab Maghreb and the consolidation of ties between Morocco and Algeria must be concretely grasped by Moroccan and Algerian citizens', Moroccan premier Azzedine Laraki said at the end of a meeting here Monday with Algerian peer Mouloud Hamrouche.

Laraki, in a statement to the Algerian 'Chaine-3' TV, stressed the importance of free movement of people and commodities saying that matter was tackled with Hamrouche and agreement was reached 'to give impetus to our exchanges, for we have decided to phone each other whenever there is a problem' and whenever technicians find difficulties in solving problems.

To a question on the existence of divergence in the two countries assessment of things, Laraki said 'there is no difference, maybe there are reminiscences of past situations and we need time to erase them, but there is a mutual political will to overcome them'.

He added that there is identity of views regarding Hamrouche's statement on the promotion of the right to democracy in the Maghreb and recalled that Morocco has incepted its Constitution in 1962 in the morrow of independence [sentence as received]. 'We set up the right to free movement, the freedom of the press, the right to association and the mulitparty system', he went on.

Answering a question on the incidents of Fes and stability in the Maghreb, the Moroccan premier said 'we must analyse the objective reasons of these incidents to correct them and there is no shame in this. What would be shameful is the maintaining of the conditions that triggered the incidents'.

Monday night, Laraki hosted a dinner banquet in honor of his Algerian peer. In an exchange of toasts, the two Maghreban prime ministers highlighted Moroccan-Algerian efforts to upgrade cooperation recalling the creation in 1989 of the high joint commission which enabled the laying of sound foundations for cooperation in all fields.

They also stressed that exchanges between Morocco and Algeria have not reached momentum yet. Laraki urged for the speeding up of the ratification of the bilateral accord on the creation of the joint venture destined to study the Maghreb-Europe gas pipeline.

They expressed appreciation for the efforts made since the Maghreban summits of Zeralda (1988) and of Marrakech (1989) to accomplish the union of the Arab Maghreb.

The Gulf crisis is a crucial phase for the Arab nation, they emphasized recalling the efforts of Arab heads of state including President Chadli Benjedid and King Hassan II to find a peaceful settlement to the problem.

Referring to the Palestinian issue, Laraki said the intransigence of Israel and its rejection of international resolutions as well as of Arab, Palestinian and European peace moves are a challenge to the international community.

The two ministers also dealt with the changes taking place in the world highlighting that these changes should

prompt Maghreban states to promote their relations both at the bilateral and Maghreban levels.

Hamrouche recalled the mutual backing the two countries extended to each other in their struggle against colonialism and called on the two sides to join efforts to promote economic development and geographical and political integration.

The Algerian premier, who arrived here Monday noon on a two day visit to Morocco, had told the media that Moroccan and Algerian 'human, natural and ground resources must be a means to boost economic, finance and trade relations and ensure the integration of the Maghreb'.

The primary task is to guarantee the free movement of people and goods, Hamrouche said adding that institutional links should be enhanced through the harmonization of laws and regulations and the promotion of democracy to achieve a strong position.

Hamrouche Departs

LD0901104191 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Before leaving Morocco, head of the Algerian Government Mouloud Hamrouche held a news conference, at which he talked about the results of the visit, the future prospects in Algerian-Moroccan relations, and the important strides made by the Arab Maghreb Union, in addition to the most important international issues, led by the Gulf crisis. [passage omitted]

Replying to a question on the media campaigns organized in both Morocco and Algeria, Hamrouche said that these campaigns were linked to the social changes and transformations apparent in the world. Our peoples are developing for the better, and their development yields many (?interpretations). It is regrettable that some negative (?interpretations) have entered the media campaigns that [words indistinct] the right of development and [word indistinct].

The head of the Algerian Government today concluded his visit to our country. At the conclusion of the visit a joint press statement was released summarizing the results, which was distinguished by the audience granted by His Majesty King Hasan II to the head of the Algerian Government, and Mouloud Hamrouche's meetings with Prime Minister Dr. Azedine Laraki, speaker of the Chamber of Representatives Ahmed Osman, and leaders of the national political parties. The statement stressed the two sides' satisfaction with the levels reached in bilateral relations.

After reviewing the results of the talks held between the Moroccan and Algerian ministers in various sectors, the statement said: The two sides agreed to adopt all necessary measures to create the best conditions for the citizens of each country to reside in and move to the other country. In this context, the two sides agreed to specify the period of renewing residence cards to 10 years. Agreement was also reached on hastening issues pertaining to the monies and properties of the two countries' citizens. [passage omitted]

They expressed their deep concern over the critical situation in the Arab East, and stressed their commitment to international legitimacy in the resolution of the disputed issues. In this context, the two sides urged the Arab and international communities to do their utmost to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, in a way that would push the specter of war away from the region.

They also strongly condemn the aggressive action perpetrated by Israel against the unarmed Palestinian people. They reaffirmed their conviction that it would not be possible to establish peace and security in the Middle East without enabling the Palestinians to regain their inalienable national rights, including the establishment of their state on their national territory, with Jerusalem, as its capital. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Premier Welcomes Diplomatic Efforts on Crisis

Addresses Cabinet Meeting

NC0601133291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1250 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Manama, 6 Jan (MENA)—Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah has expressed his satisfaction with and welcome for the diplomatic efforts being made to avoid war in the region. During a cabinet meeting today, his highness expressed his hope that the upcoming meeting between the U.S. secretary of state and the Iraqi foreign minister will result in a positive Iraqi response to the appeals from the international community and the restoration of the situation to what it was before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on 2 August. Yusuf Ahmad al-Shirawi, minister of development and industry and acting minister of state for cabinet affairs, stated that the cabinet heard a report form the foreign minister on the latest diplomatic developments in the Gulf crisis. [passage omitted]

Hopes for Peaceful Solution

NC0701115891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1020 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Manama, 7 Jan (WAKH)—Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah expressed his hope that the meeting between the U.S. Secretary of State and Iraqi foreign minister in Geneva on Wednesday will result in an agreement to implement the Security Council resolutions preferring a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. His highness stressed that the delicate stage through which the Arab nation is passing makes us hope that we will all rise to the responsibility of achieving the hopes of our peoples in the Gulf and in the Arab nation regarding true security and stability. This could be attained by establishing a security force agreed upon to preserve the gains of this nation and by enabling the Arab League to assume a strong role in consolidating cooperation and integration among the Arab states.

Speaking during a meeting with Turki Ibn-Saqr, the editor in chief of Syria's AL-BA'TH who is currently visiting Bahrain, his highness the prime minister praised the honorable Arab Syrian position in support of justice and legitimacy in the Gulf crisis, which earned Syria Arab and international respect.

During the meeting, his highness pointed out that the Gulf crisis urges us to discuss together, within the Arab grouping, a comprehensive outlook on the future to see what we are heading for and where our interests lie so that what happened in Kuwait might not recur. He stressed that the concept of pan-Arabism makes it incumbent upon us to constantly discuss in an atmosphere of frankness and goodwill any inter-Arab differences and to honestly hasten to resolve them before they get complicated and before they accumulate, out of concern for the common Arab-interests and destiny. The meeting was attended by Information Minister Tariq 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad.

Kuwaiti Defense Minister Departs After Talks

NC0901172991 Manama WAKH in English 1545 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Manama, Jan 9 (WAKH)—Kuwaiti Defence Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah left here today after a visit to Bahrain, during which he held talks with senior officials dealing with the current developments in the Gulf resulting from the continued Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and efforts exerted to achieve Iraqi troops [withdrawal] from Kuwait peacefully and restore the legitimacy.

While in Manama, the Kuwaiti minister attended the graduation ceremony of the first group of Kuwaiti volunteers.

He was seen off by Bahraini Defence Minister and Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Force Major-General Shaykh Khalifah bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah and Chief of Staff Brigadier-General Shaykh 'Abdallah bin-Sulman Al Khalifah.

Foreign Minister Receives Message From Tunisia

NC0801164791 Manama WAKH in English 1545 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Manama, Jan 8 (WAKH)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah has received a message from Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Boulares.

The message was delivered by Tunisian Foreign Minister [title as received] Mohamed El-Khouini during his meeting with the Bahraini minister today.

The two ministers discussed during the meeting bilateral relations and aspects of cooperation between Bahrain and Tunisia.

Kuwait

Oil Minister Refutes Iraqi Claims to Oilfields

LD0901235591 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 2010 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Interview with Kuwaiti Oil Minister Dr. Rashid Salim al-'Amiri by unidentified reporter in London, date not given; from the "State of Kuwait Television Message"—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] Ladies and gentlemen, peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. During Oil Minister Dr. Rashid Salim al-'Amiri's visit to London,

Kuwait television held this interview with him. Good evening minister. First of all, the Iraqi regime transgressed against the State of Kuwait and invaded it on 2 August, claiming that Kuwait had stolen its oil from the Al-Rumaylah oilfield. How would you reply to these claims?

[Al-'Amiri] Brother Muhammad, let me explain this very important point which is not known to many brother citizens, or to many foreigners. This Iraqi claim is unfounded, because despite the fact that a large part of the oilfield is in Iraq, the Al-Rumaylah oilfield naturally extends to Kuwait. We call it al-Rutgah field. The wells drilled in this field on the Kuwaiti side are on Kuwaiti territory. Our production from these [word indistinct] fields, which were drilled over 10 years ago, does not exceed 10,000 to 12,000 barrels per day, compared to production from the Iraqi side of this field which exceeds 300,000 to 400,000 barrels per day. [passage omitted]

There is scientific fact known to everyone, namely that oil moves or seeps toward the direction of the side which pumps more. The fact is that during the past eight years, when we were producing from these wells, Kuwaiti oil was seeping toward Iraq. If we were to be just, we would say that Iraq was stealing Kuwaiti oil during that period. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Indeed, why did the Iraqi Government not say in the first place, before the invasion, that Kuwait was stealing from the Al-Rumaylah oilfield, as they claim.

[Al-'Amiri] Exactly, and this is further proof that the claim is unfounded. If there was any dispute over that issue, it would have been raised 10 years ago. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Minister, some people think that these are small areas compared to the thousands of lives [which may be lost] if war breaks out. What is your opinion?

[Al-'Amiri] Brother Muhammad, the matter is not about of one or two inches territory. His highness the amir, his highness the heir apparent, and the Kuwaiti Government have explained that Kuwait is not prepared to relinquish an inch of its territory. [passage omitted]

Decree Orders Assessment of Invasion Damages

LD0901225791 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 2010 GMT 9 Jan 91

[From the "State of Kuwait Television Message"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Council of Ministers' decree Number 35 of 1991 regarding the establishment of a central committee to make a list of damages suffered by the State of Kuwait as a result of the Iraqi invasion

The Chairman of the Council of Ministers: after taking congnizance of the Amir's decree issued on 3 August 1990 and on the basis of the report submitted by the minister of state for cabinet affairs, and after the approval of the Council of Ministers, it has been decided:

Article 1: A Central Committee attached to the Council of Ministers will be set up. It will assume the task of making a list of the crimes, attacks, violations, and damages suffered by the State of Kuwait as a result of the Iraqi invasion. The minister of state for cabinet affairs will supervise the work of the committee. He will issue an order on the appointment of its chairman and members and the principles which rule its work.

Article 2: The committee mentioned in the previous article will be concerned with the following:

1. Collecting information and evidence on the crimes and attacks perpetrated by Iraq against individuals, fixed and movable public and private properties, which are considered to be violations of international law and conventions, particularly the UN charter, the Fourth Geneva Accord, the Vienna Accord on Diplomatic and Consular Relations, and the UN Security Council resolutions.

2. Collecting information and evidence on material and moral damages suffered by the State of Kuwait, its citizens and those residing in it, be they to ministries, public institutions and bodies, companies, or other legal persons or individuals, and assessing the value of these damages and the amount of compensations due.

Article 3: All ministries and public bodies and institutions are required, urgently and under the supervision of the competent minister or head of the public body or institution, to list the damages caused to their installations, and to collect statements and evidence concerning those damages and the amount of compensations due as a result of them. All those parties must take all the measures required to collect statements and evidence, and list the damages caused and the amount of compensation due to companies and individuals in the sectors where they work.

Article 4: All ministries and public bodies and institutions must submit to the Central Committee all the information, statistics, evidence, and documents concerning those damages and the amount of compensations due.

Article 5: The Central Committee must submit to the Administration of Fatwa [Islamic jurisprudence] and Tashri' [legislation] all the statements, information, statistics, evidence, and documents which become available to them, to take the necessary legal measures to protect the rights of the State of Kuwait to compensations emanating from the damages caused to it, and to demand them in accordance with the rules of law.

Article 6: The committee will submit regular reports on its work, and the minister will submit them to the Council of Ministers.

Article 7: Ministers, each in the area of their concern, must implement this decree, which will come into effect on the day of its issuance and publication in the official gazette.

[signed] Council of Ministers Chairman, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdullah al-Salim al-Sabah, issued on 6 January 1991.

Amir Receives Nigerian President Saibou

LD0901184491 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah today had a meetindg with His Excellency the President of Niger Brigadier General Ali Saibou. During the meeting which was attended by the heir apparent and prime minister His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, bilateral relation and the latest developments in the Gulf were discussed in light of the continuing Iraqi occupation of the State of Kuwait.

Paper Expects 'Aziz 'Trickery' at Baker Meeting

PM0901151191 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 7 Jan 91 p 1

[Editorial: "Dialogue Scenario"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Text] What kind of dialogue will take place at the meeting to be held the day after tomorrow, Wednesday, between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and the foreign minister of the Iraqi regime?

It is, of course, difficult to predict the future or know what will happen in 48 hours. Analysis of events in light of their recent developments and assessment of positions in view of the latest statements made by the two parties to the dialogue can reveal much about the expected scenario of the dialogue, that is, unless unexpected surprises occur in the last moments.

Baker will convey to 'Aziz a specific and brief message, but one deep in its concepts and serious in its consequences. The message will be confined to the need for Iraq to implement fully and immediately the Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis, first and foremost the total withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of legitimacy, that is within the specified deadline. The U.S. secretary of state will try to choose his words very carefully, so they cannot be subject to any confusion or interpretation, when he tells Iraq's foreign minister that his master who sits on the throne of oppression in Baghdad must realize that the United States and the international community as a whole are very serious about enforcing the international resolutions by force if Baghdad does not respond to them peacefully. Also that war will be the only option if Saddam turns a deaf ear to the international community's will. Also that the entire matter is not a kind of threat, "incitement," or pressure, as Saddam may imagine. His refusal to withdraw will mean automatically pushing the region to the brink of war—by his own hands, that is.

In return, Tariq 'Aziz will turn to trickery and maneuvers and will try to digress from the fundamental issue, namely the Kuwait issue, and move to other side and marginal issues. He will also try to convince Baker that many things can be resolved "bilaterally" and under the table between Washington and Baghdad, and that Iraq is ready to protect U.S. interests in the region and guarantee the flow of oil to it if it lifts the sword of the military deployments and the economic siege. This is nothing new to Iraq, even though it brags daily about the holy jihad against U.S. "imperialism." Saddam himself said so during the first month of the invasion, as his arrogance made him think that he had the ability to fool the United States and the world.

The dialogue may follow one pattern and may sound like a dialogue of the deaf. If there is digression, Baker will remind the Iraqi foreign minister of the need not to digress from the pivotal issue of complete withdrawal from Kuwait. 'Aziz will play him the same record repeated daily by the ruler of Iraq and which he impudently emphasized yesterday, namely that Kuwait is part of Iraq now and in the future and that Kuwait, the "branch," cannot be severed from Iraq, the "stem," any more than Washington can be severed from the United States.

Clearly 'Aziz will try during the dialogue to realize one objective—to gain time, nothing more.

This is the expected scenario for the Baker-'Aziz dialogue, that is, if we rely only on the statements announced by the two parties over the recent few days. In such a form it will not lead to a peaceful outcome. But can there be a wider room for dialogue toward a compromise? That is most unlikely, especially as President Bush emphasized that there would be no negotiations or secret deals with Iraq. Washington is committed to to implementing its pledges about the liberation of Kuwait without any conditions or any partial solutions. So much for the U.S. position. As for the Iraqi position, it is clear from the assessment of the course of events and the Iraqi statements that it is increasingly adopting a hard line. Even if we assume, for argument's sake, that Baghdad is ready to display some flexibility once it realizes the seriousness of the military deployment, that will not happen except in the last moments of the Security Council deadline, that is on 15 January, not 9 January —the date for the Baker-'Aziz meeting.

Generally, if we try hard to determine what will happen in two days' time, tomorrow or the day after tomorrow are not too distant.

Oman

Foreign Affairs Minister Leaves for Yemen

NC0701124591 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1140 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Muscat, 7 Jan (WAKH)—Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, left Muscat today for Aden on a visit to the Republic of Yemen.

Al-'Alawi told the OMANI NEWS AGENCY before his departure that he is carrying a message from Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman to Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih concerning the existing relations and cooperation between their countries. He said that the visit is intended to further promote and consolidate these relations to serve common interests.

In response to a question on the meeting scheduled for Wednesday in Geneva between the Iraqi foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state, al-'Alawi said he hoped the meeting would result in an agreement between the two sides on how Iraq could comply with the requirements of the Security Council resolution that calls for withdrawing Iraqi troops from Kuwait and settling the problem peacefully as well as examining all Middle East issues.

Port Authorities Request Ibn Khaldoon Depart

JN0501165191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1308 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Jan (INA)—The peace ship Ibn Khaldoon left the Port of Qabus in the Sultanate of Oman at dawn today at the request of port authorities to the ship's captain.

Transport and Communications Minister Muhammad Hamzah told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY that the ship was now in Omani territorial waters five kilometers from the Port of Qabus, and was surrounded by several U.S. warships.

He said that U.S. naval forces had informed the ship Ibn Khaldoon that they obtained the port's agreement to allow the ship to enter the port, and that the ship was actually towed to the said port yesterday, Friday. He added, however, that port authorities were surprised by the entry of the ship into the port. He said this shows that the U.S. forces lied.

He also said that Mrs. Manal Yunis, head of the Arab Women's Union, made telephone calls to a number of Arab ambassadors in Muscat as the ship entered the port, asking them to intervene to allow the ship to dock there. This, he added, actually took place and the ship docked near pier No. 2 in the Port of Qabus.

He also pointed out that intensive contacts were held with many humanitarian organizations around the world to put an end to the U.S. forces' piracy against the peace ship and to allow it to complete its humanitarian mission.

The minister said that despite threats by U.S. forces against the peace ship Ibn Khaldoon to force it to unload, including threats to inspect it again, the ship's crew refused to unload the ship and asserted that they would continue steadfastness in the face of all American and Atlantic threats, practices, and piracy.

Qatar

Speaker Receives Message From Soviet Official

NC0501134891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1245 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Doha, 5 Jan (WAKH)—'Ali Bin-Khalifah al-Hatm, speaker of the Qatari Consultative Council, has received a written message from Supreme Soviet Chairman Anatoliy Lukyanov. The message deals with the decision of the USSR Congress of People's Deputies on the situation in the Gulf.

Vladimir Vodyakhin, Soviet ambassador to Qatar, delivered the message in a meeting with the Qatari speaker here today. The two officials reviewed the present bilateral relations between the two countries and ways of promoting them in all fields in light of the current situation.

Saudi Arabia

London-Based Paper Views Geneva Prospects

PM1001090791 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Jan 91 p 13

[Editorial: "Before It Is Too Late"]

[Text] The whole world is today focusing on Geneva, venue of the expected meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Tariq 'Aziz.

Despite the lack of optimism caused by the Iraqi regime's intransigent stand, some European capitals expect Saddam Husayn to abandon his obstinacy, particulary after the clear ultimatum addressed to him by U.S. President George Bush and British Prime Minister John Major.

Bush emphasized that there was no intention whatsoever to extend the UN Security Council's deadline for Iraq to withdraw its forces from Kuwait. The U.S. President and the British prime minister saw Saddam Husayn's call for an extension of the deadline as an attempt to stall, procrastinate, and gain time in the hope of being able to open a gap in the international consensus condemning him and requesting unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait.

President Bush's decision to send his secretary of state to Geneva for a meeting with Tariq 'Aziz was a final attempt to settle the crisis peacefully and bring the Iraqi president face to face with his responsibilities.

The Iraqi reply to the U.S. initiative was a series of threats and repetition of the claim that Kuwait's annexation to Iraq as the 19th governorate was final.

It has been reported that Saddam Husayn held what the Iraqi media called "a historic meeting" with members of his cabinet and "Revolution Command Council" and that it was decided at the end of the meeting to request

an extension of the deadline set for the withdrawal from Kuwait as a precondition for the peaceful settlement of the crisis.

That means that Tariq 'Aziz will bring nothing new to Geneva—not unless Saddam realizes that the world's ultimatum to him is serious and final and that the aggressor and usurper will not go unpunished after 15 January, and accordingly makes the decision he has been trying to avoid before it is too late.

Al-Faysal Greets Syrian Foreign Minister

LD0501101991 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1000 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 5 Jan (SPA)—His Excellency Faruq al-Shar', Syria's foreign minister, was met upon arrival in Riyadh this morning by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; Ambassador abd al-Rahman al-Nuwaysir, the Foreign Ministry's head of protocol; and a number of officials.

United Arab Emirates

Ozal Envoy Meets Official, Delivers Message

NC0901103991 Manama WAKH in English 1540 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Jan 9 (WAKH)—UAE [United Arab Emirates] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan today received a message from Turkish President Turgut Ozal dealing with Islamic solidarity issues and bilateral relations.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan received the message during a meeting with Ozal's envoy Kemal Ihsanoglu who is currently visiting the country.

Foreign Minister Meets Zairean Counterpart

NC0901131391 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1205 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 Jan (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has received a written message from Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko concerning bilateral relations and ways of strengthening them, particularly in the economic field.

The message was handed to UAE Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah during a meeting today with Zairian Foreign Minister Mushobekwa Kalimba Wa Katana, who is currently visiting the country. The two officials reviewed developments in the Gulf region, which is particularly important as Zaire is the current chairman of the Security Council. They also discussed the development of bilateral relations.

A responsible source told the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY that the Zairian foreign minister stressed his country's support for and its agreement with the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries on the Gulf crisis issue. The Zairian foreign minister added that his country has denounced the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and has strongly supported all Security Council resolutions calling for Iraq's withdrawal and the restoration of Kuwaiti legitimacy.

The source added that Rashid 'Abdallah praised Zaire's stand in the Security Council on the Gulf crisis and [word indistinct] for international resolutions. The source said that the Zairian foreign minister expressed his country's desire to improve its relations with the Arab countries, and particularly with the members of the GCC. Rashid 'Abdallah noted in this respect the historic relations between Zaire and the Arab countries.

Yemen

Delegation Leaves for Baghdad To Discuss Crisis

EA0901152191 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Qadi Yahya al-Husayni, member of the Advisory Council, led a delegation of Yemeni religious scholars to Baghdad yesterday to attend the Islamic Conference meeting scheduled for 9-11 January in Baghdad to discuss the Gulf crisis, the foreign presence, and other Islamic issues. The delegation includes brothers Yahya 'Abdallah Qahtan, member of the Advisory Council; Ahmad al-Akwa, under secretary of the Ministry of 'Awqaf and Guidance; 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Anisi and Salih al-Junayd, both members of the Council of Deputies, and other religious scholars.

President Receives Message From Oman's Qabus

NC0801165491 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in English 1600 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of Yemen today received a written message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus dealing with bilateral relations and the situation in the region.

The message was delivered by His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, the minister of state for foreign affairs, during a meeting with his excellency the president in Aden last night [as heard].

Reportage Continues on Baker-'Aziz Talks

Meeting Delegates Noted

JN0901133891 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1310 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Geneva, 9 Jan (INA)—The most prominent members of the Iraqi delegation which took part in the meeting were Nizar Hamdun, Foreign Ministry under secretary; Barazan al-Tikriti, permanent Iraqi delegate at the UN Geneva Headquarters; and Riyad al-Qaysi, head of the International Organizations and Conferences Department at the Ministry. As for the key members of the U.S. delegation, they were Robert Kimmit, under secretary for political affairs at the State Department; John Kelly, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs; and Raymond Seitz, assistant secretary of state for European and Canadian affairs.

The first round of Iraqi-U.S. talks were concluded here this afternoon. On leaving the conference hall, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said that a second round of talks will be held at 1415, that is 1615 Baghdad time, without elaborating further.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, did not make any statements to reporters on leaving the hall at the end of the first round of talks, which lasted 2 and ¼ hours.

The announcement on holding a second round of talks surprised all observers and reporters covering the meeting, especially after it has been repeatedly announced that only a single round of talks would be held between the two sides.

Second Session Ends

JN0901172691 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1654 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Geneva, 9 Jan (INA)—The second round of talks, like the first, lasted about two hours and 15 minutes. After the session, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker declared the session adjourned for 30 minutes, while Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz made no statement to reporters.

The reason for adjourning the second session for 30 minutes is still not yet known. It is believed, however, that the reason behind this is to allow the two ministers to hold contacts and consultations with their governments.

With this session, the Iraqi and American ministers have met for a total of four and one-half hours, with two breaks—the first for one hour and 15 minutes, and the second for 30 minutes.

The results achieved during the two lengthy sessions are not yet known because of the tight security measures at the Intercontinental Hotel where the meetings are being held—which obstruct the freedom of reporters and the possibility of contacting the members of the Iraqi and U.S. delegations.

Third Session Begins

JN0901173491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1707 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] The third round of Iraqi-U.S. talks began this evening in Geneva. The second round of the talks was concluded in Geneva earlier this evening.

The INA correspondent said that the U.S. secretary of state and the Iraqi foreign minister entered the conference room without commenting to the questions of the more than 1,050 reporters who are gathered in the hotel.

The session began at 1430 Geneva time, 1630 Baghdad time, half an hour later than the agreed-upon time. The first session lasted for two hours and 15 minutes.

Third Session Ends

JN0901185391 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1827 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Geneva, 9 Jan (INA)—The third session of the Iraqi-U.S. talks, headed by the U.S. secretary of state and the Iraqi foreign minister, resumed here tonight after a 20-minute interval.

The two ministers proceeded to the conference room without heeding the questions of the reporters, who gathered a few meters away from the entrance of the meeting hall.

Informed sources expected this session to last no more than two hours, as in the first two sessions.

The INA dispatch says that the third working session between the Iraqi and U.S. delegations, led by Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Secretary of State James Baker, concluded after about two hours.

The ministers came out of the session—the last between them—without making any statement to reporters. However, the INA dispatch in Geneva learned that Tariq 'Aziz will make a statement to reporters within one hour after the conclusion of the session.

By the end of this round of talks, the Iraqi and U.S. foreign ministers had met for more than six hours of talks in total during an eight-hour period that saw three sessions of talks.

The ministers held this session less than half an hour after the conclusion of the second session—during which they went up to their accommodations at the Intercontinental Hotel on the 14th and 18th floors.

'Aziz Refuses Bush Message

JN0901213391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2107 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has refused to receive a message addressed to His Excellency Leader President Saddam Husayn by U.S. President Bush.

This was announced by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at a news conference he held in Geneva tonight. At the news conference, he said that having read the message carefully, Tariq 'Aziz refused to receive the message.

The U.S. President made a statement today announcing Tariq 'Aziz's refusal to receive his letter from James Baker in Geneva.

The third round of Iraqi-U.S. talks which went on for almost two hours led by the foreign ministers of the two countries was concluded in Geneva today.

Baker Announces Talks 'Failed'

JN0901191691 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1907 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker announced at a press conference a short while ago that his talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz have failed. Baker said: After six hours of continuous talks, I could not convince Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. James Baker added: After these lengthy talks, I heard nothing from Tariq 'Aziz showing that the Iraqi position has become more flexible.

Tariq 'Aziz Geneva Press Conference

JN0901214091 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2055 GMT 9 Jan 91

[News conference Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Geneva on 9 January; conducted in English—recorded]

[Text] ['Aziz, in progress] Bush intends to have a press conference, I preferred to listen to him, then I was told that the press conference of the president, President Bush, has been postponed for a while, so I wanted to use the time to talk to you.

When I arrived last night in Geneva, I said that I have come with open-mindedness, and that was my intention, and I also came in good faith. The most important fact about these talks I would like to draw your attention to is that they are taking place after five months of the occurrence of the latest events in the Gulf, and I drew the attention of Secretary Baker to that important fact; also, that this meeting took place after the last resolution that was taken under American pressure by the Security Council which gives... [pauses] makes limits to diplomacy. If we had an earlier opportunity several months ago, I told the secretary that we might have been able to remove a lot of misunderstandings between us—if there was a chance—or there is a chance for that, because he spoke at length about his government's assumptions of miscalculations by Iraq.

And when I came to that point, I made it clear to him that we have never—we have not made miscalculations. We are very well aware of the situation; we have been very well aware of the situation from the very beginning. And, I told him that we have heard a lot of talk on his side and on the side of President Bush, that the Iraqis have not got the message—they don't know what is going around them, etc. You know what they have been saying in this regard. I told him, if we had met several months ago, I would have told you that we do know everything. We know what the deployment of your forces in the region means; we know what the resolutions you imposed on the Security Council mean; and we know all the facts about the situation—the political facts, the military facts, and the other facts. So, talking about miscalculation is incorrect. We have to convey to each other our view about the situation and that removes the misunderstandings on either side.

I heard Secretary Baker describing our meeting in form, and I say also that from the professional point of view it was a serious meeting.

We both listened to each other very carefully. We both gave each other enough time to explain the views we wanted to explain, to convey the information we wanted to convey. From this aspect, about this aspect in the talks, I am satisfied. But we had grave, or big, differences about the issues we addressed. Mr. Baker reiterated the very well-known American position. He is interested in one question only, that is the situation in the Gulf and the Security Council resolutions about that situation. I told him very clearly, and I repeated my idea and explained it at length—that what is at stake in our region is peace, security, and stability. What is at stake is the fate of the whole region—that region that has been suffering from wars, instabilities, hardships for several decades. If you are ready to bring about peace to the region, comprehensive, lasting, just peace to the whole region of the Middle East, we are ready to cooperate. I told him I have no problem with the international legality. I have no problem with the principles of justice and fairness. On the contrary, those principles are in the best interest of the people of Iraq and they are in the best interest of the Arab nation.

We had been seeking for decades to have those principles respected and implemented in our region. But, they have not been respected and implemented by the Israelis, in that they have got a continuous, strong American support. If the American Administration changes its position and it works with us and with the other parties concerned in the region to bring about peace—comprehensive, lasting, just peace—we will be very glad and very enthusiastic to participate in that effort.

Concerning the new world order, or the international world order, I said I have no problem with that order and we would love to be partners in that order, but that order has to be implemented justly and in all cases, not using that order in a single manner, in a selective manner, impose it on a certain case with the view of the United States of America and neglect the other issues and not show sincerity and seriousness about implementing in other issues.

He said that he does not believe that what happened on the 2d of August and later was for the cause of the Palestinian

question, or to help the Palestinians. I explained to him the history of Iraq's interest in the Palestinian question. I explained to him that the Palestinian question is a matter of national security to Iraq. If the Palestinian question is not resolved, we do not feel secure in our country, because there have been wars in the past. Iraq participated in those wars. Israel attacked Iraq in 1981, and we were expecting Israeli attack on Iraq this year, last year. In March and April last year, we were expecting such an attack; and that was the main theme in the Arab summit that was held in Baghdad in late May. Therefore, it is a matter of Iraqi security as well as Arab security to see that the Palestinian question is solved in a just manner, according to international legality, according to the principles of justice and fairness.

He said that he does not believe that. I told him: Okay; test us. You can test us and see whether we are sincere in that or not. I spoke at length about the linkage between the issues in the region, and I told him that when we speak about the linkage, we are serious and sincere, because what was happening before the 2d of August has a strong relationship with what happened later. And I told him that the United States actually implemented an embargo on Iraq before the 2d of August. We had dealings with the United States in the field of foodstuffs. We used to buy more than a billion dollars of American products. And we were faithful and accurate in our dealing with the American relative institutions. Early in 1990, the American Administration suspended that deal, which was profitable to both sides. And we were denied food from the United States. Then, the United States Government decided to deny Iraq the purchase of a very large list of items. That was done also by the British Government and other Western governments. So, the boycott was there before the 2d of August. The threat to the security of Iraq was there before the 2d of August. The threat to the Palestinians was there before that date. The threat to the security of Jordan was there before that date; and that was, as I said, the main themes in the Baghdad summit which took place in late May.

So, if you want to bring about the situation in the region to that period prior to the second of August, that means that we would be threatened; we will be boycotted and the political and psychological and media campaign against us would continue. So, what is the difference; what is the difference? If we have to change the course of events, if we have to bring about peace, let us address all the issues. If the matter is the implementation or the respect of the international organization, the respect of Security Council resolutions, we have a number of resolutions about the Palestinian question. They have been neglected for decades. The last two important resolutions, 242 and 338, the first was adopted in 1967, the other in 1973, and they are not yet implemented. And the United States and the members of the coalition, as Mr. Baker calls it, have not sent troops to impose the implementation of those resolutions; they have not taken measures against Israel because Israel was intransigent. On the contrary, the United States government has covered the Israeli position, protected it politically at the Security Council, and that is very well known to everybody; and the United States government still supplies Israel with the military and financial means to stick to its intransigence. So, if the matter is respect of international law, Security Council resolutions, we would like you to show the same attention to all Security Council resolutions, and if you do that, a lot of differences between us will be removed.

Concerning the threats or no threats which the secretary referred to in his address to you, the tone of his language was diplomatic and polite; I reciprocated, but the substance was full of threats, and I told him all in substance that we will not yield to threats. We would like to have genuine, constructive dialogue between us, between our two nations, in order to make peace in the region and between our two nations. When we discussed the question of the mass destruction weapons, I told him in 1990 when this question was raised very, very strongly by the American Administration, we made it public—my president made it public—and he also informed a number of prominent American senators led by Senator Bob Dole, who came to see my president in April 1990—he told them and he made it public also that Iraq is ready to join an agreement to eliminate all mass-destruction weapons in the whole region, including the nuclear weapons, biological weapons, and chemical weapons.

And I told the secretary that you only concentrate on what Iraq has and you do not show any concern about what Israel has. Israel does have nuclear weapons, and you cannot give me any assurances that Israel is not going to use them against us or against other Arabs. The only assurance, credible assurance, is that we reach an agreement on the elimination of all mass destruction weapons. And I told him you have got a pledge from me to that. And my guess that you cannot get such a pledge from the foreign minister of Israel, or from his prime minister. And in spite of that, you do not show concern.

This raises, as well as the attitude towards the Security Council resolutions, the question of double standards. I told him we in Iraq and the Arab world, we feel against, strongly against, the double standards you use in addressing the questions in the region. When it comes to Israel, you are calm, you are not worried, you can wait for months and years to try to persuade. If they are not persuaded and if they continue their positions, you do not do anything, you continue your support. But when it comes to the Arabs, there you raise the stick. And we are fed up with this policy of double standards. We shall not accept to be treated as a nation as underdogs. We are a proud nation. We have our history. We had our contribution to human civilization, and we would like to be treated in a dignified and just manner.

You heard that I declined to receive the letter from President Bush to my president. At the beginning of the meeting, Secretary Baker told me that he carries a letter from his president to my president, and he handed over a copy to me. I told him I want to read this letter first. And I read it, as he said, carefully and slowly, and I knew

what it was about. I told him, I am sorry, I cannot receive this letter. And the reason is that the language in this letter is not compatible to the language that should be used in correspondence between heads of state. I have no objection that Mr. Bush would state his position very clearly. A serious exchange of letters between leaders and politicians can, or should contain the position of each party, but when a head of state writes to another head of state a letter, and if he really intends to make peace with that head of state or reach genuine understanding, he should use a polite language. And politeness does not contradict with substance. Therefore, because the language of that letter was contrary to the traditions of correspondence between heads of state, I declined to receive it.

[Reporter] Could you give us an example of the language?

['Aziz] Well, I read it only once, and I have not rehearsed that letter. But the contents of that letter were paraphrased in one way or another in the different statements the secretary made during the talks. This is the introduction I wanted to make about the meeting and I am ready to answer your questions. [motions to reporter] Yes?

[Reporter] Would Iraq leave Kuwait if promised an international conference on the question of Palestine?

['Aziz] I did not put it that way. I heard such a question during Mr. Baker's meeting with you. I told the secretary that if you are ready to respect and implement international legality, the principles of justice and fairness, as far as all the issues in the region are concerned, you will find us very cooperative.

[Reporter] Mr. Secretary, did you speak with your president after your meeting with Secretary Baker, and is it your conclusion after this meeting that war with the United States is inevitable?

['Aziz] I beg your pardon, I did not get the first part of your question?

[Reporter] After your meeting with Secretary Baker, did you have a conversation with your president about the results of the meeting?

['Aziz] No. I think the officials in this hotel know that I have not made any phone calls or overseas phone calls.

[Reporter] Could you answer the second part of the question? Do you believe that war with the United States is inevitable?

['Aziz] Well that is up to the American Administration to decide. I told Mr. Baker that we are prepared for all expectations. We have been prepared from the very beginning. If they decide to attack Iraq, we will not be surprised. We have our experience in war, and I told him that if the American Administration decides to attack Iraq militarily, Iraq will defend itself in a very bold manner. We are a courageous nation and we deeply feel that we have been treated unjustly. The Iraqi people, the Arab nation, and the nation which feels that it has been treated unjustly for decades, and a nation as courageous as the Arab nation—the Iraqis are part of that nation—and the nation which has the great determination to tell the others that it does not accept to be treated as it was treated, such a nation has the determination and the capability to fight as long as need be to prove and to achieve its rights.

[Reporter] Mr. Foreign Minister: In your opening statement, in fact [words indistinct], you haven't mentioned the Iraqi invasion. [reporters and media persons complain because they cannot hear the question and ask the reporter to use the microphone] One, two, three, four, five. One, two, three. Mr. Foreign Minister: Sorry about that. In your opening statement, and in fact up to this very moment, you have not mentioned Iraq's annexation of Kuwait. I am curious to know whether you actually ever discussed the question of withdrawal from Kuwait during the course of the six or so hours of talks with Secretary Baker. Did the Iraqi side in any way, shape, or form even discuss the question of withdrawal?

['Aziz] Well, the secretary spoke a lot about the situation in the....

[Reporter, interrupting] [words indistinct]

['Aziz] Yes. Mr. Baker spoke a lot about the situation in the Gulf, and I made our position very clear. I told him that this situation is part and parcel of a general situation in the region. If you are ready to address on the same principles, on the same criterion, I am ready to do the same.

[Reporter] Do you deny that Iraq was stripped of all its possessions, its wealth, its people, its humanity?

['Aziz] Well, you can put your question the way you like. But, I am not going to respond to allegations. The Iraqi people and the Iraqi Government have their own historical rights. And when they deal with those rights, they have their own view about it and they have their own standards about it. You might have a different view;' that is up to you.

[Reporter] Mr. Foreign Minister: If the war starts in the Middle East, in the Gulf, will you attack Israel?

['Aziz] Yes. Absolutely yes.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister: Are there circumstances under which Iraq would withdraw from Kuwait? And if so, can you tell us what they would be?

['Aziz] I am not going to answer hypothetical questions. I have a line which I made very clear in my talks with the secretary. If the United States is ready to address all the issues in the region on the same principles, on the same criterion, Iraq will do its contribution to that effort in a serious and sincere manner.

[Reporter] Mr. Foreign Minister, there have been quotes from Baghdad in the past, Mr. Minister, questioning

America's will and its resolve, particularly given its Vietnam experience. I wonder if you would give us your reading of America's will. Do you think that...? [question incomplete as heard] You said Mr. Baker has miscalculated discussing Iraq's miscalculations. Could you tell us how you calculate America's resolve at this point? Do you think that they are indeed ready to fight you in a prolonged manner?

['Aziz] I dealt with this question at length in the talks. I told Mr. Baker: You have mentioned that in your statements. And I told him that we follow what is being said in the United States, in the Congress, what is being published in the American newspapers; and that is part of our duty to follow the events in the United States and the world vis-a-vis the situation in our region. But I told him: The decision of the United States is your problem or that is your business, you see. It is up to the Americans in the government, in the Congress, in the public opinion to make their own decision. We have prepared ourselves for the worst from the very beginning; therefore, we are not making miscalculations about that. But, at the same time, I am telling you now that any support in the United States or elsewhere for the cause of peace is a noble phenomenon; and such a noble phenomenon has to be appreciated.

We do appreciate the reasonable statements made by American individuals, by American politicians about the situation in the region, even if they differ with our point of view. We do appreciate them. And in this world, in this world, with the development of communications and means of information, people listen to each other, and there is nothing wrong about that. But it does not means that we are calculating on that, or making our calculations on that—that the Americans do not have the resolve to do this or that—that is up to the American people and the American Government to decide. As far as the Iraqi people are concerned, as far as the Iraqi leadership are concerned, we are preparing ourselves, and we have been preparing ourselves from the very beginning to the worst kind of expectations.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, during your stay here, and we do not know how long it will last, are you intending to meet with other European officials?

['Aziz] No, I do not have any plans of meeting foreign officials. I might meet Arab colleagues who happen to be here in Geneva. The Europeans made a proposal to receive me in Rome when Italy was the president of the group, I accepted that invitation immediately and appreciated that invitation. When there was a problem between us and the United States about the dates of my meeting with President Bush and Mr. Baker's visit to Baghdad, they withdrew that invitation. And when they invited to Luxembourg once again after we agreed to make this meeting here in Geneva, I said sorry, I cannot accept your invitation because your treatment, your position in withdrawing the previous invitation was humiliating, and if you want to talk with the Iraqi leadership you are welcome in Baghdad. This is still my position about that.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, did today's talks change your mind in any way about the ...

['Aziz, interrupting] The talks with Secretary Baker?

[Reporter] Yes, and did you get any new information that you feel obligated to [words indistinct] President Saddam Husayn?

['Aziz] No, honestly, honestly, I happen to know some English, and I can listen to statements made by American officials without translation—sometimes, many times, without translation. And we listen to the American radio, and I have the advantage of seeing the CNN, which is very active in covering the political activities [laughs with some members of the press corps], especially the statements of the American officials; I have heard Secretary Baker talking several times. And the last few months I have heard almost all the statements of President Bush. I did not find anything new in what Mr. Baker said in our meetings. But as I said at the beginning the tone here in Geneva was different. It was a diplomatic tone, not the harsh tone which we are familiar with listening to the previous statements.

[Reporter] Mr. Secretary: Do you rule out any attack on Israel before a U.S. attack on Iraq, number one? Two,...

['Aziz, interrupting] That is not going [word indistinct]...

[Reporter, interrupting] Excuse me, sir, just to finish, would you give us any more details, you said that you had information that Israel was going to attack Iraq last March or April; I was wondering if you could elaborate on that? And finally, why not have face-to- face talks with Israel yourself, or the head of state, either in Jerusalem or Baghdad? You've talked about peace in the Middle East for decades; why hasn't that happened? Why aren't you for it?

['Aziz] About the first half of the question, Iraq is not going to attack anybody, any party, before it is attacked. So, our action in this regard would be a retaliation to attacks, and a defensive action. As far as the talks you mentioned are concerned, there is no bilateral dispute between Iraq and the Israelis. There is the Palestinian question; the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian land; the Israeli subjugation of the Palestinian people—if they are ready to resort to the principles of justice and fairness and to the principles of international law, they have to talk to the Palestinians and when the Palestinians want the help or the support of the Arab brothers and they want any kind of support on the side of Iraq, we will be always at their disposal.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] Israeli attack last year?

['Aziz] The Israelis were planning to attack Iraq last year, yes.

[Reporter] Did you also foresee the possibility of the good offices of the secretary general of the United Nations within the next six days?

['Aziz] Well, several days ago, our representative in New York met with Mr. Perez de Cuellar, and he informed him that he would be welcome in Baghdad if he wishes to come. This position is still there. I heard on the news that he might decide to come to Baghdad, but I haven't yet received a formal letter or a formal suggestion in this regard.

[Reporter] Mr. Foreign Minister: You stressed twice now during this press conference that you were satisfied with the professional style, as you put it, and the tone and the language of today's talks with Secretary Baker, but then you explained to us that you rejected the letter because of the language President Bush used supposedly in this letter. Are you implying that Secretary Baker and President Bush use different language on the same issue?

['Aziz] The tone of our talks was different from the language that was used in the letter although the substance doesn't change very much. I am not, as I said, against the substance. Every head of state can convey to his counterpart whatever he wants to convey, but the question is a question of language, of politeness, and resort to diplomatic means of correspondence. I came to see Mr. Baker. He wanted to see me, and I wanted to see him, and we wanted to talk about all questions of common interest, all of the interest of this side and of the other, and we had long discussions as I said, from the professional point of view they were good discussions.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, before leaving Baghdad you said you will have new proposals and ideas. What you've just said this evening, you said many many times before. Why did you have no new proposals or ideas?

['Aziz] I raised a lot of ideas with Mr. Baker. I told him: Why don't you work with us together, and with the other parties, to bring about peaceful, comprehensive peaceful settlement to the whole region? This is a very constructive idea. I raised with the secretary the question of the Arab solution. I told him: Why are you against the Arab solution? And he said that the majority of the Arab countries are against the so-called Arab solution. I told him: Wait a minute. I will count one country after the other who has shown interest in an Arab solution. And when I counted the states which showed interest in an Arab solution the number was 11. And this shows that there is a majority among the Arab world to try an Arab solution. But, he strongly refused that path, and he even denied that there is an Arab solution, the idea of an Arab solution. I told him: There is an Arab solution. Why not? This is an Arab problem between Arabs, and what's wrong if a number of leaders in the Arab world meet and try to find solutions to this problem? What's wrong with that? And there is no contradiction in taking that solution to the international organization and seek some sort of an endorsement to it.

And there is a precedent in that, a very recent precedent. We have the situation in Lebanon; and that situation was a very critical situation. And it has been dealt with several times by the Security Council and by other international bodies. Then the Arabs met in Casablanca in 1988, and they created a commission of three leaders. And those three leaders with the help of their foreign ministers reached some sort of a solution which was called the al-Ta'if solution. And that solution was endorsed by the Security Council, was supported by the United States. Why not in this case? He strongly refused. Which means, as I told him clearly, he says that this is the international community versus Iraq, this is the coalition versus Iraq. I told him: But the meeting is between you and me. The meeting is not between myself and Mr. de Cuellar. The meeting is not between me and the foreign minister of the Soviet Union. The meeting is not between me and the foreign minister of the Ivory Coast, who participated in the adoption of those resolutions. The meeting is not between me and the foreign minister of Ethiopia who participated in the adoption of the Security Council resolutions. The fact that the foreign minister of Iraq and the secretary of the United States are meeting here in Geneva discussing the situation shows that this is a confrontation between Iraq and the United States.

You have your allies on your side and we do have our allies on our side. You can count a great, a bigger number. You have the capabilities. And we all know how that number of the coalition was increased. A lot of money, billions of dollars were spent, to create that coalition. We don't have such money to make a parallel coalition, but those who are supporting Iraq, they are supporting it genuinely. They are not mercenaries who are being paid every month, and who are competing with each other about the amount of payment and making their complaints once to the Americans and other times to the Saudis and to the others that the money is not enough, you've got to pay more and more. We don't hear such things from those who support us.

And I told him: Who are the staunchest supporters of Iraq now? The people of Palestine in the occupied territories. Those people were the most affected financially by the events in the Gulf. And in spite of their financial and economic hardships, they support Iraq. Why? Because they find in this conflict a golden chance for themselves that their country, their land, they themselves, might be liberated.

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. Good night.

Baghdad Radio Report

JN1001060091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0404 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that Iraq does not yield to threats and only accepts the serious and sincere dialogue to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Arab region.

In a news conference in Geneva following his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Mr. Tariq 'Aziz also stressed the need to link the solution of the Gulf situation with the resolution of all problems in the Middle East. He (?referred) to the double standards of U.S. policy toward regional problems. He said Iraq strongly rejects these double standards, and is fed up with the policy of double standards, referring to the UN resolutions on the Palestine question which were not respected by either Washington or Israel. Tariq 'Aziz also reviewed his talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Geneva that were concluded last night.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, refused to receive a letter to leader President Saddam Husayn from U.S. President Bush. At the news conference last night in Geneva, he said he refused to receive this letter from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker because its language is not compatible with the language that must be used in correspondence between heads of state.

Tariq 'Aziz added: When a head of state writes to another head of state and he really means to achieve peace or genuine understanding with that head of state, he should use a polite language.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, also rejected an invitation to meet with the EEC foreign ministers, which was proposed by [words indistinct] in Luxembourg. He said that if the EEC wishes to hold meetings with us, it should send its ministers to Baghdad.

Algerian Minister in Geneva To Meet 'Aziz

JN0901202191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Geneva, 9 Jan (INA)—Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Ghazali arrived in Geneva from Luxembourg a few hours after the Luxembourg foreign minister, whose country chairs the EC, made public a suggestion that a meeting be held between the EC and Iraq in Algiers.

The INA correspondent in Geneva learned that immediately after his arrival, the Algerian minister headed for the residence of the Algerian mission, and that he is waiting for a meeting with Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz to discuss with him the Luxembourg suggestion which is supported by Algeria.

Luxembourg Foreign Minister Mr. Poos made a suggestion today in the capital of his country on the possibility of holding a fresh meeting between the EC and Tariq 'Aziz within the next few days, after Iraq refused last week to hold a meeting with the EC in Brussels which was scheduled for tomorrow, Thursday.

Commentary Supports Algerian Mediation

LD0901235891 Baghdad International Service in English 2100 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Here is a special program entitled: America's War is to Face a Billion Muslims.

The journalist [name indistinct] wrote an article in which he said soon thousands of young men will find themselves forced to serve in a destructive war. As a journalist, I know what war exactly means. That is because I am at the press coverage for military, social, and political revolutions and for uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa since the independence of Algeria in 1954 until 1962.

I also covered similar events in Tunisia and Morocco and that enriched my experience in terrorism and anti-terrorism. Furthermore I covered the Arab-Israeli wars and the Iraq-Iran war from 1980 to 1988. [words indistinct] to the Lebanese civil war in Lebanon, Yemen and at Libya.

Living in a city which is being bombed by air force of your country is not an amusing thing, as happened in Tripoli at Libya in 1986. It was not amusing to be in Cyprus in 1974 during the Turkish bombardment to this island. I also cannot say that it was interesting climbing the mountains and rocks in Yemen to meet those who fled the hell of the civil war.

Saying that all these conflicts were local is controversial. The Arab-Israeli wars in '67, '63 [as heard] and '82, and also the Iraq-Iran war had affected to a great deal the West oil imports and they must also affected the political balance too. [as heard].

The U.S. President George Bush and the United Nations have made their preparations for a war but the American war against Iraq will not be a local or a regional war. In a way or another it will spread all over the world where more than a billion Muslims from Indonesia to West Africa will view this battle as a war against (?colonizing).

The gains which will be weaved out of this battle will be very little in comparison with the political crisis which would result from [it]. The Saudi language which we hear now is similar to the language used by Anthony Eden during the Suez War when Britain, France, and Israel took part in the aggression against Egypt. It also brings back to mind the language which was used during the World War Two.

A lot of Arabs consider President Saddam Husayn the only Arab leader who dares to challenge Israel occupation to Arab territories and believe that he might rescue them.

If the West waged a war against Iraq, President Saddam Husayn will be a national hero and a patriotic symbol for Arabs. The ex-Kuwaiti rules were not known for their personal generosity or for being nice. Iraq has old demands in Kuwait even before 1958. Iraq was regularly appealing to Kuwaitis through the radio to return to the motherland Iraq. The British colonialism at that time had drawn the borders and struck deals with Kuwaitis who turned into emirs after the discovery of oil. Kuwait was exceeding its petroleum quota, which means reducing oil prices at a time when Iraq considered its existence heavily dependent on maintaining oil prices high.

Some Arab leaders, especially the Algerians, understand the adversity [as heard] President Chadli Bendjedid is exerting and his extraordinary efforts to work out a peaceful settlement for this conflict within the Arab family. These efforts should be supported and backed as long as there is a space for peace.

That was a report entitled The America's War is to Face a Billion Muslims.

Perez de Cuellar Reportedly To Visit Baghdad

JN1001085491 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0838 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] New York, 10 Jan (INA)—UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will leave this evening, Thursday, for Geneva en route to Baghdad. This was announced here last night in statements made by Mr. Perez de Cuellar to journalists shortly after a hastily arranged meeting with Ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent [UN] representative.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar said that he received many letters today, from various world capitals, urging him to travel to Baghdad and hold a direct meeting with President Saddam Husayn. He added that he would begin talks in Baghdad on Saturday and that "President Saddam Husayn will be the first person with whom I will meet."

Perez de Cuellar expressed hope that he would succeed in his mission and said: "I now feel I must go to Baghdad on the basis of my moral authority as UN Secretary general."

He added that an Iraqi invitation to visit Baghdad was extended to him two weeks ago.

Saddam: U.S. To Swim 'in Blood' If War Starts

JN0901195691 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1903 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Comrade leader Saddam Husayn met with the comrades of the senior cadre of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. During the meeting, the comrade leader asserted the high readiness of our Armed Forces and the great Iraqi people to confront the forces of infidelity and aggression, inflict defeat on them, and achieve a decisive victory, with the assistance of God.

The comrade leader also asserted that we are not the kind that can be subjected to threats, and you will see what kind of snare America will fall into.

His excellency added: If the Americans are involved, you will see how we will make them swim in their blood, with the assistance of God and the resolve of our people, and the capability and faith of our army, which is protected by God Almighty.

The comrade leader pointed to the role of this battle in making changes in the life of the entire nation and in removing injustice being done to humanity at large.

The comrades of the senior cadre asserted to President Saddam Husayn their high readiness to face the enemies in defense of the dignity of the Arab nation, its worth, and future. They renewed their pledge to remain faithful soldiers to the principles for which they have always struggled, behind the leadership of President Saddam Husayn.

The meeting was attended by the members of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

AL-THAWRAH on Bush 'Duality of Personality'

JN0901180291 Baghdad INA in English
1240 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 9, INA—The Iraqi newspaper, AL-THAWRAH, today described U.S. President George Bush as a "complex and baffled personality suffering from duality and confusion."

The resident of the White House was suffering from a serious duality of personality reflected in his thoughts that he was born to rule and at the same time suffering from self non-confidence.

In a comment, AL-THAWRAH said anyone was entitled to ask whether it was right that the president of the sole "superpower state" in the world be suffering from such nervous disorders that plunged him into continual contradictions.

How could Bush impose his will and become the sole dictator and policeman of the world while his personality was as such, the paper asked.

It expressed amazement how could the American people remain silent on the actions and decisions of Bush, or how could his allies feel safe with thier plight in the hands of a confused and sick U.S. president.

Foreign Correspondents Tour Kuwait 'Governorate'

JN0901182591 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1755 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Kuwait, 9 Jan (INA)—A number of journalists from Arab and foreign newspapers, news agencies, and magazines paid a visit today to the Governorate of Kuwait.

The correspondents took note of the nature and progress of life in the cities of Kazimah, al-Nida', and al-Jahra'.

Information Minister Asserts Defense Posture

JN0901174691 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1525 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has asserted that the stalwart Iraqis, under the leadership of the knight and symbol, President Saddam Husayn, are ready to face the buildup of U.S. and Atlantic forces if they attempt to infringe on the land of Iraq and its sovereignty.

During his meeting today with Mrs. Margaret Papandreau, chairwoman of the Geneva-based World Women Movement for Peace and Mutual Security, and the coordinator-general of female organizations in Greece, and her delegation, Latif Nusayyif Jasim said that we will strongly defend Iraq's land from Zakho to the sea, and we will face aggression with all our great military capabilities and with an unwavering, high morale. He added that Iraq's confrontation with the forces of infidelity in the mother of battles is the confrontation of humanity to rectify the wrong standards and two-faced behavior. He said that all Arabs, including the poor and the Muslims whose sanctities the United States occupied and whose sentiments they provoked, stand with us.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim emphasized that President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative is the correct path toward resolving all the problems of the region, primarily the Palestine question and the rights of the Palestinian people to regain their homeland from the usurping Zionist entity. He added that President Saddam Husayn's initiative is the way to establish a comprehensive peace in the region. He also reviewed the episodes of U.S.-imperialist-Zionist conspiracy against Iraq to stop its civilization's awakening, control the region's wealth, and impose hegemony and guardianship on the Arab nation. He pointed to the unjust, unfair measures imposed on the Iraqi people to starve them and deny their children milk and medicine.

He said that the developments that took place in the region are part of a conspiracy which is (?constantly unfolding), whose threads were woven by the U.S. Administration in coordination with traitor Fahd and [word indistinct].

Mrs. Margaret Papandreou and the accompanying delegation [words indistinct] against the use of military force to resolve the problems of the region and the need to have recourse to dialogue and negotiations to spare the region and its peoples' war. [passage omitted]

Assembly Speaker Affirms Interest in Peace

JN0901175591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] National Assemly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih today received [Michael A.] Rosie Douglas, secretary general of the Labor Party of Dominica and secretary general of the national Caribbean movement, and (Michael Angel Trimurad), member of the Argentine parliament from the ruling Peronist party and director of [word indistinct] Malvinas and South America for Liberation.

The National Assembly speaker praised the stands of nationalist, political, and Islamic personalities in Latin America on the attempts of intimidation and extortion that the Iraqi people are being exposed to. He affirmed Iraq's desire for a serious and just peace, for the solution of all problems of the region, led by the Palestine question, and for the termination of the Palestinian Arab people's suffering which began over 40 years ago.

Rosie Douglas expressed the understanding of the nationalist forces in Latin America and the world of the need to resolve all Middle East problems in an integrated and interrelated manner away from the U.S. Administration's attempts at imposing U.S. hegemony. He stressed the need to expand popular and international participation in order to establish peace in the region.

(Michael Angel Trimurad) affirmed the Argentine people's solidarity with the Iraqi people and their condemnation of the economic embargo imposed on Iraq and denying its children and women [words indistinct].

Hammadi Rejects 'Promises,' 'Capitulation'

PM0801123191 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 7 Jan 91 pp 9-11

[Interview with Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi, member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister for economic affairs "during his recent visit to Khartoum," by Hamidah Na'na' : "Palestine Before Kuwait...That Is a Destiny and a Cause"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Na'na'] What will your position be if the United States insists on rejecting linkage of the Middle East issue and the Gulf issue, in the knowledge that the Security Council resolution are now clear, the entire region is on the verge of an abyss, the multinational forces are spread across the region's states, and the possibility of war breaking out is on the cards as a result of these factors?

[Hammadi] If the United States refuses to discuss the Palestinian issue, should we submit to its refusal?! We will also refuse: There will be no solutions except after the Palestinian issue is discussed. Why should they be entitled to refuse if we are not?

[Na'na'] There is a specified period for the implementation of the Security Council resolutions.

[Hammadi] Let there be a period; let it be half or twice as long. We have told them from the start that we are for peace and for sparing the region a disaster. But we will not concede justice and our rights. Justice says beyond any doubt that the injustice inflicted on the Arab nation and the Palestinian people is unparalleled in history and that the breach of international law with regard to the Palestinians is unparalleled in history. So anyone who wants to respect international and UN laws and resolutions must respect them all, not take what suits him and discard what does not suit his interests. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] Did you know that there was a plan against you in which Kuwait was to take part? Is it true that you knew that Kuwait was thinking about calling in U.S. forces on 7 August?

[Hammadi] We sensed that there had been a conspiracy against us since the Amman conference. At the Arab Cooperation Council meeting held in Amman in February President Saddam attacked the foreign fleets'

presence in the region. After we returned to Baghdad the U.S. ambassador went to the Foreign Ministry and protested: You are attacking our presence in the Gulf. We are present there at the request and with the approval of our friends. What did that mean?! Who are their friends? So there was an understanding between the United States and them.

[Na'na'] True, U.S. naval forces did come to the region during the Gulf war at the request of Kuwait. But you had knowledge of that.

[Hammadi] The war has ended, and all the fleets that came during it should have left; but the United States—through a direct understanding with Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and the former Kuwaiti government—wanted to keep its fleets in the Gulf on the pretext of protecting the region against the growing Iraqi threat.

[Na'na'] The situation now is very serious and explosive: The U.S. forces are deployed and no party wants to backtrack on its position. Is Iraq prepared to engage in a war with serious consequences, as experts expect?

[Hammadi] Of course we do not want war—there is not the minutest doubt about that. Nor are we the ones to start a war. But if does start, we will fight and resist with our utmost strength and every force we have to defend ourselves. And, although we will suffer losses, we will emerge victorious. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] If the former Kuwaiti Government recognized your right to the Rumaylah oilfield, Warbah, Bubiyan, the borders, and compensation, would you withdraw from Kuwait? And if you withdraw, do you suspect that Iraq's forces would be hit?

[Hammadi] We do not put the question in that way. We raise it today in a different way: Is the United States ready to withdraw from the region?! Is Israel ready to withdraw from the occupied territories? Let them answer this question, which is the most important to the Arabs. What is most important to the Arabs: Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, or Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories?

[Na'na'] If you were promised that an international conference to resolve the Palestinian issue would be convened, together with the fulfillment of the aforesaid conditions, would you withdraw?

[Hammadi] What? A promise? We are not so crazy as to accept promises. Are we dealing with a simple matter in order to accept promises? After 50 years of experience and promises, can any reasonable person accept promises? Why promises? Why not find a solution now? What is behind this? Is the Kuwait issue on the ground and the Palestine issue in the sky? No, both are on the ground. No, no to promises and no to words. All that is unacceptable. What is acceptable is a just solution to the Palestinian issue. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] You are an economist and chairman of the Revolution Command Council's Economic Committee. Do you believe that Iraq can resist for long under such a siege?

[Hammadi] True, the blockade has inflicted damage and will inflict damage in all fields. We have shortages of food and medicine and in other fields. The blockade imposed against Iraq is unprecedented. All I can say is that the economic blockade and the way it is being implemented provide irrefutable evidence that the United States does not respect international law. And if there is a big lie in history, it is the U.S. respect for international law. No country in the world has scorned international law as the United States has. But, praise the Lord, the new evidence of this—that is, denying a people food and medicine—demonstrates something internationally prohibited in the Geneva conventions. But it is now being implemented against Iraq. It has not been applied before, even during fighting wars. The UN Charter bans that. The human rights charter also bans that. When it comes to its interests, the United States pays no attention to international law.

Recently the Iraqi health minister announced that 1,400 Iraqi children (under six months) had died because of the lack of baby milk. And nobody cared about international law. Let the world look attentively at U.S. respect for international law.

The blockade has harmed and hurt us. But that is one thing, and submission and capitulation are another.

Diplomat Says 15 Jan 'Normal Day' for Iraq

PA1001031891 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0131 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Mexico City, 9 Jan (NOTIMEX)—This 15 January will be a normal day for Iraq because on that date it "will continue its struggle to make the world accept that Kuwait belongs to Iraq," Sabar al-Haditi, Iraq's charge d'affaires to Mexico, has said.

However, he mentioned that Iraq will seek by all means available a negotiated solution to the conflict, "because war is something that destroys everything that is positive in a nation."

He said that despite the meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz to find a negotiated solution to the crisis in the Persian Gulf, "Iraq will not kneel before the United States."

He said that the multinational troops deployed in the Persian Gulf "do not know what they are defending" and he reiterated that Iraq will not give in to U.S. imperialism and the forces of NATO.

"We want peace by peaceful means," because threats are incapable of solving any conflict. The conflict calls for a fair dialogue, and I repeat: Kuwait historically belongs to Iraq." [quotation marks as received]

Sabar al-Haditi was interviewed at the end of a meeting to discuss peace in the Persian Gulf convened by the Popular Socialist Party (PPS).

He indicated that if war breaks out it would cause a disaster and it would not benefit the United States at all because all Arabs would support Iraq.

He said that his country could resist an attack by the multinational forces as long as necessary and he said that the popularity of President Bush has begun to decline.

As for the decision by Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari not to send troops to the Persian Gulf, the Iraqi charge d'affaires said that his country supports all countries that favor peace and not war.

'Voice of Free Iraq' Reports 'Aziz-Baker Talks

JN0901155691 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq in Arabic 1515 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his [Iraqi] counterpart Tariq Hanna ['Aziz] began decisive talks at the Intercontinental Hotel in Geneva on the establishment of peace or a declaration of war in the Gulf. This is first meeting of its kind at this level to be held between the United States and the Saddam Husayn regime since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990. The meeting began at 1100 local time in the conference hall at the hotel which is called the Palace of Nations. News agencies said that the meeting took place amid tight security measures. After more than two hours elapsed, the talks between Baker and Tariq Hanna broke for a recess, and the two delegations left the meeting hall at 1215, local time, to resume talks at 1415. Neither side made any statement.

Meanwhile, the British daily THE INDEPENDENT quoted Arab sources as saying that Barazan al-Tikriti, a brother to tyrant Saddam, is the most important person in the Iraqi delegation to the talks.

VOFI Says Saddam To Order 'Preemptive' Strike

JN0901200591 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq in Arabic 1704 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Reports received by Voice of Free Iraq reveal that at his meeting with the regime's military command last Sunday, Saddam Husayn referred to the difficulty of going back on his military adventure. He said that retreat gives a stronger position to what he termed the imperialist forces and their supporters. Therefore, he remarked, the war option is the more likely, and the losses that would be inflicted on us in case of retreat are more harmful than the losses that we might sustain in case of war.

In his speech, according to information communicated to Voice of Free Iraq by special sources, Saddam expected that the first strike to his forces will come from the northern front with Turkey. This explains the speed and intensity of the regime's military concentrations on the Turkish front over the past two days.

Reports indicate that Saddam ordered military commanders to initiate a preemptive attack if he becomes certain that the attack on him by the allied forces is inevitable.

In another development, reports received by Voice of Free Iraq indicate that what took place during the meeting between the tyrant Saddam and leading party cadres the day before yesterday reflects an attempt by Saddam to inspect what these cadres have in mind after he received reports indicating that there are criticisms and a feeling of discontent among the party organizations. The reports indicate that the ruling party members have growing fears that the adventure that Saddam led them to is the end of their rule in Iraq. In view of the growing feeling of discontent, Saddam tried during the meeting to obtain comprehensive support and loyalty to his policies. However, he noted that the majority kept silent and avoided voicing opposition in order not to arouse his anger. This prompted him to address direct questions to many attendees to force statements from them on their stands and opinions of his policy of running the crisis—like what happened during a similar meeting in 1980 on the eve of declaring war against Iran, some cadres were accused and reprimanded because of the tyrant's displeasure with their silence.

'Sources' Say Terrorists Gathering in Baghdad

PM0901154691 London DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 9 Jan 91 p 8

[Neil Darbyshire report: "Terrorist 'Gathering for Blitz on West'"]

[Text] About 1,500 terrorists, belonging to an assortment of Arab groups, are thought to be concentrated in Baghdad, ready to respond to President Saddam Husayn's call for "global conflict" in the event of war, sources in London said yesterday.

The Fatah Revolutionary Council of Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], with an estimated 300 Iraqi-based members, is regarded as the most dangerous single group, closely followed by the Palestinian Liberation Front, led by Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas].

According to Iraqi dissident groups in London, the infamous bomber and assassin Carlos "the Jackal" has also been summoned to Baghdad to co-ordinate the campaign.

Other "client groups" which owe allegiance to Saddam include the Arab Liberation Front, military wing of the Ba'thist party and the Arab Organisation 15th May, implicated in six bomb attacks on civil aircraft since 1982.

The crucial task for Western intelligence services is to identify Arab "sleepers" in Europe, terrorists who have lived quitely for years just waiting to be activated. Also, the movement of some Iraqi nationals in Britain is being monitored closely.

The stance of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, by far the largest militant Palestinian group, is not clear. Despite its close ties with Iraq, the PLO is unlikely to want to become involved in attacks on Western targets. Its mainstream leader Yasir 'Arafat, has spent the past few years courting the goodwill of the European Community, hoping to enlist support for the creation of a Palestinian homeland.

Unconditional Iraqi Withdrawal Must Be First Step

TA0901151391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this afternoon met a delegation of U.S. congressmen headed by William Gray. In the meeting Shamir said that the only hope of preventing war in the Gulf is to convince Saddam Husayn that it is up to him alone, and to make him realize that if he does not change his policy he will be attacked and defeated. The prime minister said the impression is that Saddam is not yet convinced that the United States will use military force, despite the clear statements made by the President and the secretary of state. Perhaps the meeting in Geneva, Shamir said, will convince Saddam that this is just what the U.S. leaders mean, and that perhaps this will bring an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

The prime minister also said that Saddam Husayn's withdrawal will be a victory for all those seeking to avoid war and bloodshed in the world, and who aspire for peace. Shamir said that the first step must be to make every effort to bring about Saddam's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait.

These were the remarks of the prime minister. Jerusalem is still awaiting the end of the Geneva meeting.

Foreign Minister Levi Views Baker-'Aziz Talks

TA0901204391 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1930 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Studio interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Menashe Raz and political correspondent 'Immanu'el Halperin—live]

[Text] [Raz] Foreign Minister David Levi has arrived at our studio. Good evening, Mr. Levi.

[Levi] Good evening.

[Raz] I will repeat the same question I asked Yitzhaq Rabin before. There are still six days until 15 January and the situation can still change several times; however, as things stand now, it looks like an explosion, as though the situation has grown worse.

[Levi] No. I am sorry to disagree with your opinion. That is because nothing surprising happened this evening. No one expected all the differences to be resolved and an agreement to be hammered out in today's meeting. Everyone was familiar with the U.S. position, which was reiterated by President Bush both yesterday evening and today, that this meeting between the two foreign ministers was not intended to be a negotiation but merely to clarify the U.S. position to the Iraqis and to give them the entire picture, including the deployment of forces and the significance of a future conflagration, if that indeed comes to pass.

[Raz] Mr. Levi, why do you paint the picture in such colors? Perhaps you can give us the scenario that you expect to take place in the next few days.

[Levi] I stated today that no one would be able to foretell what would happen. But one thing is clear: As long as people are still talking, there will still be forces hovering around pressing for continued dialogue. We heard Francois Mitterrand just a short time ago. We are also familiar with the position of several European states. I do not think that any doors were slammed today in Geneva, even if Tariq 'Aziz....

[Raz, interrupting] Let me put things differently. Can you tell us whether the military option is nearer now in the Gulf?

[Levi] We remain in the same situation. The United States clarified the position it insists upon. The Iraqis will think about it; there may very well be some proposal.... [pauses] By the way there was no deviation from the positions stipulated by President Bush. The issue of linkage [previous word in English, as elsewhere in this item] was mentioned but categorically rejected, and an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal was demanded. Nevertheless, one must read between the lines of what the U.S. secretary of state said: that the Iraqi foreign minister will return to his country, that consultations will be held, and that there will be a change in the Iraqi position from that presented today. He complimented us in various ways while mentioning the mistakes made by the Iraqi leadership; the Iraqis are probably wrong about us as well. However, there has actually been no change in the situation: each side stated its position and no doors were slammed.

[Halperin] Sir, should Israel sit tight and keep quiet, or is there some initiative, deed, or declaration that Israel can make in order to assist the Americans and further our own interests?

[Levi] Such suggestions have become almost fashionable in Israel. We are not conducting negotiations there. We are threatened even if we are not part of the actual arena over there. We are threatened because we are situated in the region. From the very outset we stated that we support the United States in all its positions and in the rejection of the linkage, because linkage would turn Saddam Husayn into the great victor who came out of this with great spoils. He would become a model for imitation and his aggression would know no bounds. He would be portrayed as the man who liberated the Arab nation from the Zionist tyranny, in quotes. You ask what Israel should say now. Should we, in order to help the United States, ask that there be linkage? What can Israel say?

[Halperin] In other words, Israel should shut up?

[Levi] I did not say shut up. Just wait things out in any event. We are doing the exact opposite of shutting up. We are not issuing threats or empty declarations. We have reiterated our political and military positions. I am very happy that the secretary of state reiterated and remained loyal to the very principles he gave us. In the

future, those positions will be tested. It is clear to the Americans as well that a mere Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait will not end the crisis, because such an outcome will leave Saddam Husayn with his potential....

[Halperin, interrupting] Yes, President Bush has said so.

[Levi] Well, then greater men than I have said so, but I also said so today. In that case all the U.S. forces and their allies will either have to remain in the Saudi Arabian deserts, or they will have to leave and restore the situation to what it was at the beginning—in other words, the same old threat to Saudi Arabia and every other country in the region, including Israel. I believe the United States has a strategy based on what I have heard from the U.S. President: That aggression will not pay here, that the aggressor will not emerge with any rewards, and that there will be no more threat in the future. This is purely in the U.S. interest. Of course, Israel supports those principles, and I suggest we not mix apples and oranges. What can Israel offer in these negotiations—certainly not linkage.

[Raz] Thank you, Mr. Foreign Minister.

Arens Discusses Geneva Talks, Gulf Issues

TA0901211091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1955 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Yoram Ronen and military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky—live; from the weekly "Moqed" program]

[Text] [Ronen] Secretary of State James Baker said in Geneva this evening that there are only six days left until 15 January. The talks in Geneva ended over an hour ago, and we heard Baker say there was no change, that Iraq showed no flexibility in today's talks. The assessment today, after the Baker-'Aziz meeting, is that the chances of finding a political arrangement between George Bush and Saddam Husayn are quite poor. The chance, perhaps the last chance, of attaining any kind of an arrangement is in the hands of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who will probably leave for Baghdad before 15 January, before next Tuesday—five days from now, in fact.

Following the failure of the Geneva talks, and in view of the possibility that war between the United States and Iraq will break out, we have with us in the studio this evening Defense Minister Moshe Arens. Good evening, Mr. Defense Minister, and good evening to Moshe Shlonsky.

[Arens] Good evening.

[Ronen] Sir, do you interpret James Baker's statement as an end to all possibilities of attaining a political arrangement between the United States and Iraq?

[Arens] We saw today that the United States was very firm in its stands; it did not make the slightest change in them. I believe this is what we hoped for. On the other hand, however, the Iraqis, represented by Tariq 'Aziz, were also very determined and probably did not make changes in their positions. Today, I would say, it all depends on Saddam Husayn. No change is to be expected in the U.S. stand. I would not like to make predictions as to changes in the Iraqi stand. So far we have seen no such change.

[Shlonsky] Does it seem reasonable to you that both sides arrived in Geneva and neither of them was willing to make concessions? If so, what was the point of their meeting?

[Arens] Regarding the Americans, we knew in advance that they are not willing to make concessions, that their stand is clear. And I believe that, for their part, they wanted to make sure that there is no misunderstanding in Iraq, that the Iraqis understand the Americans are determined and will not budge from the lines and goals set by President Bush.

[Shlonsky] Could this also be connected to domestic problems Bush and Baker might have in convincing the Americans that their leaders are doing everything within their power to prevent war?

[Arens] In every democracy foreign policy is accompanied by domestic policy. We heard, however, that fears were expressed in the United States that perhaps Saddam Husayn does not believe that they are determined in their readiness to use force if he does not back up. That is why I believe they were willing to make this effort, and why they made it.

[Ronen] Mr. Minister, do you believe that Saddam Husayn knows what he is to expect if there is a war with the United States?

[Arens] It is hard to tell; because had Saddam known what he is up against, I would say—based on my logic—that he would have given up and would have been looking for a way out. So, either he does not know what he is up against, or he does not think in rational terms the way we do.

[Shlonsky] You heard Secretary Baker this evening. Based on additional information you have, do Baker's remarks mean that the United States, with the entire coalition, is going to war with Iraq?

[Arens] I believe that if we do not see a change in the Iraqi positions in the next few days, the Americans will be willing to use force.

[Ronen] Does that mean that we should be more seriously prepared for war, an all-out military confrontation in which, we fear, we will be involved?

[Arens] We have been seriously preparing for the past five months. We have made plans, we are drilling, we are dealing with deployment to prepare for a war that we do not want, that we certainly do not want to be a part of. If we are hurt, however, we will be ready, naturally.

[Shlonsky] Would you say this evening, following the news conference, that we are closer to a war?

[Arens] I think we can say that, because there were certain natural expectations in circles around the world, that something would happen in Geneva. If there was any room for these expectations, they were based on the assumption that Saddam Husayn will, eventually, begin to withdraw—that he will get the U.S. message. The way things sound at the moment, we see no withdrawal.

[Ronen] Mr. Minister, Secretary Baker again said that there will be no linkage between the solution of the Palestinian problem and the elimination of the Gulf crisis. Still, in the air there is the possibility of an international conference to solve the Israeli-Arab conflict. Although Secretary Baker said there will be no such linkage, do you believe that such a possibility does exist?

[Arens] I think that whoever saw Secretary Baker this evening could clearly see that there is no such linkage, and that the U.S. is not willing to discuss it or take any steps in the direction of an international conference. Today they are dealing with one thing only: the confrontation with Saddam Husayn.

[Shlonsky] Could you say that you are satisfied with Baker's news conference, regarding the issue of linkage on the one hand, and the determined U.S. stand not to back down from its position on Kuwait, on the other?

[Arens] I had no doubts that the Americans would not change their stand, that it is firm and final.

[Ronen] In one word, what should Israel do now? Should it continue maintaining its low profile, try and remain on the sidelines and closely follow the events?

[Arens] We have no business getting involved in war, if it takes place. Nevertheless, we have every interest in defending our country and its citizens, and this is what we will do.

[Ronen] Mr. Defense Minister, it seems recently that the government is again not speaking in a single voice. Here are a few quotes: Prime Minister Shamir said that the danger of war in the Gulf is growing and that it is a saber rattling over our heads, which contains many dangers for the State of Israel. Foreign Minister David Levi said: The end of the crisis would entail an opening for a positive development in the Middle East and a general arrangement between us and the Arab countries. How do you reconcile those two opinions?

[Arens] I do not see a contradiction between those two remarks. This crisis will have to end. There is no doubt that it will be over. It is only natural that people among us think about what will happen after it is over. Certainly, our focus of attention at the moment is on the crisis and the ways to solve it.

[Ronen] If I may quote former Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Reserve Major General Aharon Yariv [of the Jaffe Center for Strategic Studies] who said, contradicting the prevailing opinion in the government, that Israel should not automatically react to any Iraqi attack. It should very carefully consider whether to react to a missile attack, or other attacks, by Iraq.

[Arens] Look, when a state is defending itself, it is not taking automatic steps; it is taking the natural step. We will be taking the natural steps if they are called for.

[Shlonsky] The question is: What do you consider natural? Let me give an example: Several missiles fall; there are several Israeli casualties, but not a big disaster. We can show restraint, perhaps coordinate with the United States. We can deliver a severe blow, as you, the chief of the General Staff, and the prime minister indicated in the past. Which way will Israel act?

[Arens] Self-defense is a natural step. We will take that natural step if we are hurt.

[At this point the interview is interrupted for live relays of a report of a television correspondent in Washington on U.S. reactions to the Geneva talks, and an excerpt of Tariq 'Aziz's news conference from Geneva]

[Ronen] Well, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz is currently speaking in a relaxed and moderate tone. He said that he and Secretary of State Baker tried to clarify for each other their respective positions, but it appears that they have not been successful at this stage. Now let us return to Defense Minister Moshe Arens. Moshe Shlonsky, please go on.

[Shlonsky] We heard a bit of Baker and also some statements by Tariq 'Aziz, who has also refused to go back on his positions. Does this mean that we expect Iraq to launch missiles at Israel in the event of war? In other words, will Israel become involved as the result of an Iraqi attack, and will their opening gambit indeed be the firing of missiles?

[Arens] We hope not. We know that this possibility exists. The Iraqis do not have a common border with us, but they do have two ways to try to attack Israel: They can use aircraft or missiles. We can cope with their planes with the help of our Air Force. Even so, no guarantees can be given that no planes will succeed in breaching our defenses; but I believe that our Air Force has good prospects of emerging victorious in any such confrontation. In the event of missiles, we know that there is no means to intercept missiles; if missiles are launched, they may indeed reach Israel.

[Shlonsky] You are basically repeating things former Defense Minister Rabin said: That we have no means of intercepting the Iraqi missiles.

[Arens] From a technical point of view, no one has the means to intercept missiles.

[Shlonsky] From time to time you have made statements to the effect that even if Iraqi missiles are launched at Israel, there are only a few of them. We know that the Iraqis have dozens, almost a hundred missile launchers. On what data have you based your estimate that the

Iraqis can launch only eight, 10, or a dozen missiles at one time, in the worst possible case?

[Arens] I did not quote numbers. I asserted, however, that the physical damage that the Iraqi missiles could cause us is limited. This estimate is based on a number of elements. First of all, the payload of their missile warheads is small, about 250 kg. A single modern fighter plane can carry 10 or 20 times as much. In order to launch a missile, one needs time to carry out tests. One needs launchers. The equipment required for tests prior to launching is only to be found in limited quantities in Iraq, and therefore the number of missiles they can send in one day is limited. In addition to all those factors, you have to consider our response, which will be designed to end such an attack, if it indeed is launched.

[Ronen] Sir, there is one question that is on the minds of many people, perhaps even more so today, and that is whether the Iraqi missiles have chemical warheads?

[Arens] I cannot give a definite answer to that; however, we have taken that possibility into account.

[Shlonsky] Major General Amnon Shahaq, the head of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch, said at the beginning of the crisis that Iraq is very far away from Israel. Five months have passed. Is Iraq still as far away from Israel, according to our knowledge of what is happening in Iraq?

[Arens] It is certainly more difficult to collect intelligence data over such great distances and from a country we do not share a common border with, than from neighboring states. However, we also share information with our allies, and as a result I would say that, although the intelligence picture may be far from perfect, it is quite good.

[Shlonsky] Are you satisfied with the cooperation we have from the United States on this matter: with the information from Iraq and with the data received about the Persian Gulf crisis in general?

[Arens] The cooperation with the United States is actually part and parcel of the strategic cooperation that has been implemented between the two countries for several years now, and it has also proven its value during the recent period.

[Ronen] Regarding the specific issue we are discussing: Do we give the United States all the information we have at our disposal and get all the information it collects?

[Arens] I cannot speak for the United States, but as far as the exchange of information is concerned, I would say there has been a significant improvement in recent weeks.

[Ronen] As opposed to the outset of the crisis?

[Arens] Yes, and that is natural.

[Ronen] Mr. Defense Minister, if we have to attack Iraq—and you have not ruled out that possibility—one may assume that our attack would have to go through Jordan. Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran this evening said that if Israel intervened, Jordan would appeal to Syria—and perhaps it has already done so—to fight against Israel together with Jordan. Do you consider that to constitute a new Jordanian threat?

[Arens] First of all, there are different ways to attack Iraq and I hope that Jordan will not become involved if we do find ourselves in such a scenario. It has no cause to become involved; we do not want it to become involved; but in the final analysis that depends on Jordan and not on us.

[Ronen] In other words, are you saying that it is possible that we will attack Iraq from the air without going through Jordan?

[Arens] I do not want to draw any maps or routes right now, but everyone can imagine that there are different ways.

[Ronen] How do you regard the threat issued by Jordan's prime minister in asking Syria to join Jordan in a war against Israel?

[Arens] I think that this is only natural, as Jordan has adopted a pro-Iraqi position. They would like to break the anti-Iraqi coalition, of which Syria is a member. At this stage, I do not see them succeeding in doing this.

[Shlonsky] In any case, Jordan has taken different steps from the other Arab countries during the recent days and weeks. It has changed the deployment of its Army to an emergency deployment, which also caused alarm here. Why is that happening? Does Jordan know something that Israel does not? Is Jordan frightened of us? That military deployment is unprecedented since 1973.

[Arens] I think the Jordanians have taken into account the possibility of Israel crossing the Jordan River. They have no reason to fear this. We have no such intentions. The very fact that I am telling you this, however, does not necessarily satisfy Amman. Their military deployment is of a defensive nature and is opposite our border with Jordan. The nature of this deployment could change, but the Jordanian Army is relatively small and we are monitoring developments. I have no doubt that we can handle anything that can happen there.

[Ronen] Would you not say that King Husayn is in a quandary? On the one hand he is already heavily obligated to Saddam Husayn, while on the other hand he knows that if a military confrontation erupts and Israel participates in it, then the very future of his regime may be in danger.

[Arens] First of all, it is up to him. It depends on his reaction and on certain scenarios. The fact that he is in a quandary is clear to everyone. He supports Saddam Husayn, but I am not sure he supports him wholeheartedly.

[Ronen] His support is not wholehearted?

[Arens] I am not sure.

[Ronen] In that case do you think he could still alter his position?

[Arens] That depends how much freedom of action he has. His freedom is not unlimited.

[Ronen] Has Israel recently delivered any messages to King Husayn through a third party or other means, in order to clarify our position on the matter?

[Arens] I think our position is clear to him. At least, judging from everything he has heard from us, he should know that we have no aggressive designs on Jordan.

[Shlonsky] Mr. Arens, with your permission let us retraverse the Jordan River back to Judaea and Samaria. Are you worried, has the defense establishment prepared itself for a state of affairs in which hundreds of thousands of Palestinian residents take to the streets in the event of a war, thus creating a new threat to our rear?

[Arens] I hope that such a thing will not happen, and I think that the population in the territories realizes that our reaction would be very firm and severe if such a thing came to pass.

[Shlonsky] Could you be more specific please?

[Arens] I do not think there is any need to elaborate. Anyone can figure it out.

[Shlonsky] Is that indeed your evaluation, that they will indeed take to the streets; or do you think that they will closet themselves inside their homes out of fear?

[Arens] I did not say that was my assessment, and I would be very disappointed if that were indeed to happen. However, as I told you, our reaction would be severe in such an event.

[Ronen] In such an event our reaction would not be our customary reaction to the intifadah?

[Arens] No. As can be well imagined, if there is a war in the region our reactions will be tailored to a war situation.

[Ronen] In Judaea and Samaria as well?

[Arens] In Judaea and Samaria as well, if there are problems there. If there is no trouble, there will be no problem, and we would be very happy.

[Shlonsky] Has a message to this effect been conveyed to the residents of the territories? Are they familiar with the defense establishment's intentions? Do they know that the rules of the game will change if war breaks out?

[Arens] We are delivering the message right now, but I believe it was clear even before we expressed it.

[Ronen] What about the Israeli-Arab sector? Do you also foresee growing extremism among Israeli Arabs if war breaks out as a result of the Gulf crisis?

[Arens] I do not foresee this. There may be individuals or small groups here and there. The Israeli Arabs are citizens of the State of Israel, and their loyalty should lie with the State of Israel at any period, especially at a time of crisis.

[Shlonsky] Will you support Minister Magen's [minister in charge of Israeli Arab and minority affairs] proposal that Israeli Arabs do national service?

[Arens] First of all, I believe that proposal is not viable at this time. That issue has still not been discussed by the cabinet, and I will voice my opinion on the matter only when it is brought before the cabinet.

[Ronen] Did you raise that possibility or consider it a good idea when you were handling Israeli Arab affairs, as the minister in charge of Israeli Arabs?

[Arens] I never made such a proposal. I was thinking in terms of volunteering and, later, the gradual drafting of the minorities to the IDF.

[Shlonsky] It is no secret that you have reservations about the way the Israeli governments have been dealing with the Israeli Arabs. You have more than once said that one of the reasons that the situation is so grave is that there is discrimination and that they are neglected and not treated well. Do you still think that way, and is that why you will not support the idea of national service for the Arabs?

[Arens] My opinion about the policy that should be adopted toward the minorities in Israel has remained unchanged. At the same time, as I said before, the proposal of national service simply cannot be implemented in the next few weeks.

[Ronen] Speaking of national service, last week you made several harsh remarks concerning the service in the IDF of yeshiva students. You said that the fact they are not serving in the IDF is an open wound. Do you intend to take action on that issue?

[Arens] I have already taken steps. I addressed Agudat Yisra'el in a conference to which they were kind enough to invite me. I believe the matter calls for them to take action. I tried to convince them of my stand.

[Ronen] And they were not convinced?

[Arens] You said that.

[Ronen] I heard it from them.

[Arens] I hope they will reconsider, because I believe it is in their favor and it is important for them. Change can only take place if they agree, at least in the present political reality in Israel.

[The interview is again interrupted for another excerpt of the live relay of the Tariq 'Aziz news conference in English in Geneva, with Yoram Ronen providing Hebrew translation from the studio]

[Ronen] The Iraqi foreign minister said that the solution of the Palestinian problem is essential to Iraq's security, and that is why it is so important to them that the problem be solved. Mr. Defense Minister, do you see anything new in Mr. 'Aziz' remarks?

[Arens] No, I think we have heard that said before, perhaps with different phrasing.

[Shlonsky] You told Shim'on Schiffer, in an interview published in YEDI'OT AHARONOT yesterday, that you are sleeping well. I know that many Israeli citizens are losing some sleep. Is there something you know that others do not that helps you sleep so well?

[Arens] I hope that all the Israeli citizens sleep well. I do not know what your assumption is based on. It is not that we are not going through a tense period. It is as true for me as it is for any Israeli citizen. Our public, however, is experienced. It lived through quite a few crises, and it knows how to deal with them. It knows it has a very good Army that will defend the state and its citizens. In this respect everyone can and should sleep peacefully.

[Shlonsky] Do you also feel as Secretary Baker does that, in fact, the countdown has commenced, and we have six days left? Is that your feeling tonight after the news conference?

[Arens] We will certainly follow closely whatever happens in the next few days. We will draw the necessary conclusions from the developments.

[Ronen] What would you advise the Israeli public to do in the next few days: Clean the shelters, show more alertness, be prepared for war?

[Arens] We are ready, and the IDF is the most ready. The IDF is the citizens' Army. Almost all the Israeli citizens have a duty in the Army, whether standing or reserves, and everyone should act according the order he is given.

[Ronen] Do you believe that those civilians who are not in the reserves should show greater alertness or take any particular action in the remaining days, until a possible war comes about?

[Arens] I think they should listen to the radio, which most of them do almost every hour. What should be made known, will be made known to the public through the radio.

[Ronen] Mr. Defense Minister, thank you.

U.S. Stance Praised; Planned Attack on Iraq Denied

TA0901230891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2200 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Excerpt] If Israel is attacked by Iraq, it will fight back. This remark was made this evening by Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, in response to the threats made by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz. Jerusalem expressed satisfaction over the determination showed by James Baker in today's Geneva summit meeting and over his opposition to linking the Gulf crisis with the Palestinian issue. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

Israel is rejecting Tariq 'Aziz's statement that Israel is threatening to attack Iraq. This is baseless nonsense, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said in response. Following 'Aziz's remarks that Iraq would attack Israel if there is war, the Jerusalem spokesman said that Tariq 'Aziz is operating under laws more ruthless than those of the jungle.

Pazner added that Israel will not initiate an attack against Iraq, but if it is attacked it will fight back.

Appreciation was expressed in Jerusalem for the U.S. stands in the discussions. Tariq 'Aziz again tried to link the Palestinian problem with the Gulf crisis, but Baker was determined to push off any linkage, and Israel appreciates that, Foreign Minister David Levi said this evening. [passage omitted]

Military: Only War Will Realize U.S. Goals

TA1001061191 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Report by Karmela Menashe]

[Text] After the failure of the Geneva talks, the defense establishment and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] believe that there is now a greater danger of war in the Gulf. Military elements say that in view of the stands presented by the two sides, a military move seems to be the only viable option open to realize the U.S. goals in the Gulf. War, they estimate, is now closer than ever.

IDF units are maintaining a high alert. This is true for the Air Force, the airspace defense system, the Intelligence Branch, and the rear.

The IDF has decided to launch a public information campaign soon, whereby the public will be informed, through the media, municipal activities, schools, and other channels, on various aspects of an emergency situation and on civilian defense.

In any event, the IDF has increased its alert. Defense Minister Moshe Arens and Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, the chief of staff, said yesterday that the IDF is eminently ready and prepared for every possibility.

'Aziz Claim on Attack Plans 'Last Spring' Denied

TA1001071691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Israeli spokesmen in Jerusalem and Washington have denied Tariq 'Aziz's statement that Israel had planned to attack Iraq last spring. Foreign Ministry spokesman Yosef 'Amihud told our political correspondent Arye Golan that this is unfounded nonsense. The one who attacked a neighboring country, trampled its sovereignty, and exiled its citizens is now preaching to the United States and the entire world on matters of style, tradition, and manners.

The Israeli Embassy in Washington has issued a similar denial, adding that 'Aziz's claim that the Palestinian condition is a threat to Iraqi security is ridiculous. The statement of the Israeli Embassy in the United States concludes by urging Iraq to avoid making an error, because if Israel is attacked, it will react with full force.

'Great Anxiety' Among Palestinians After Talks

TA1001074491 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Report by Arye Gus]

[Excerpt] Like the Israelis, residents of the territories tensely followed the reports and broadcasts from Geneva. Jordanian Television broadcast the news conferences almost in full, and some residents even watched the Israeli programs. A certain panic was felt in Judaea and Samaria stores, where some signs of food hoarding were evident.

The report that the talks failed caused great anxiety. The region is marching toward war, Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj told the Voice of Israel last night. There is a grave danger, and we must not forget that in such wars, there are no victors; everyone loses.

Frayj expressed the fear that the Palestinians would emerge as the primary losers. If Iraq emerges victorious, they will be blamed by the Gulf countries, and if Saddam is put down, they will have lost points with the Arab coalition that confronted him. The Palestinians are also troubled by questions of what Israel will do and how it will respond.

On the other side of the Palestinian political map stands former Nabulus Mayor Bassam al-Shak'ah, who is known for his support of the rejectionist front. The talks stood no chance from the start, he said yesterday. The United States had no intention of reaching a diplomatic solution, and this could be seen in the stands it held even prior to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The Palestinians should rally to halt the United States, he added. [passage omitted]

IDF Making No 'Substantial' Changes in Alert Status

TA0901142591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens made the following remarks before we had the reports about the break and the second round of talks in Geneva this morning. The defense minister said that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is training to meet any eventuality, and that we are indeed ready. Our military correspondent Amir Fink has some of the remarks:

[Begin Arens recording] I believe that the most understandable thing is that if there is to be war, every passing day brings us closer to it. I hope there will not be a war, but this is not up to us. In fact, we are at the same level of preparedness and alert we have been maintaining for the past several weeks. Here and there we are making slight adjustments, but they are not substantial. [end recording]

'Secret' Soviet Proposal for Information Exchange

TA1001094291 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Jan 91 p A1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Last week the Soviet Union submitted to Israel an official proposal to set up a permanent apparatus for the exchange of information between Israel and its neighbors. It has been learned that Soviet Consul General Aleksey Chistyakov submitted a document, outlining the proposal to set up a regional center for the reduction of tension in the Middle East, to Eytan Ben-Tzur, the Foreign Ministry's assistant director general and head of North America Department and Disarmament Affairs.

According to the proposal, which was discussed by Israeli officials in Moscow at one time, Israel would send a permanent representative to a neutral country in the region, such as Cyprus. The Arab countries would also dispatch diplomats to the center, whose job would be to oversee the reciprocal exchange of information about military maneuvers. The center would serve as a sort of "hot line" to prevent hostilities resulting from an erroneous interpretation or assessment of the enemy's military activities. Each side would furnish the other side with information about military maneuvers, missile tests, and so forth.

The Soviet proposal, which has concurrently been discussed with the United States, calls for holding a regional meeting in the Middle East on chemical, biological, and missile disarmament under the aegis of the two superpowers. The Soviets are trying to apply to the Middle East the experience the superpowers acquired in the course of reducing tension in Europe. The Soviet proposal also entails an agreement to curb the conventional arms race in the Middle East.

It has been learned that Jerusalem and some Arab countries—including Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Syria—did not reject the Soviet proposal and even expressed willingness to seriously discuss it, once the Gulf crisis is over. Chistyakov yesterday refused to comment on the report that he had submitted such a proposal to the Israeli Foreign Ministry. He noted that it is not customary to comment on secret diplomatic contacts. Nevertheless, it should be pointed out that Chistyakov recently published a pamphlet containing a proposal similar to the one submitted to the Foreign Ministry.

Prime Minister Comments on U.S.-Iraqi Talks

JN0901162891 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1210 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Statement by Prime Minister Mudar Badran at House of Representatives session on 9 January in Amman—recorded]

[Text] Jordan has made diplomatic and political efforts to achieve a peaceful outcome in the Gulf crisis and to convince those who want the military option to proceed toward a peaceful option. We have conveyed to them our view on the military option, which would destroy the world's economy and have a destructive environmental impact over a large area exceeding 1,000 km. We have also conveyed our view of the human consequences that would result if war were to break out, God forbid. Moreover, we have clarified the dangers that are not taken into consideration if war breaks out. He who declares war does not own the decision to stop or contain it.

If war breaks out, regardless of the situation, the Arab people will not just remain silent, watching and listening to the results and not moving in any of the Arab and Islamic capitals. There will be a great change in the plan of the region. Many regimes will collapse. I am not exaggerating; this is the result of studies and information. Arab people everywhere are hoping that this confrontation does not take place. But, if it happens, the Arab people cannot remain silent toward the continuous bombing of an Arab Muslim people in Iraq.

We have worked to bring about the meetings on 3 January between Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and U.S. President Bush, and on 12 January between U.S. Secretary of State Baker and President Saddam Husayn. We are confident, based on information, that if this meeting were to take place, especially on 12 January between Baker and Saddam, then, we believe, there is room for a peaceful solution. That is, of course, if the United States has sincere intentions toward this option. We all know that the Iraqi leadership is ready for the peaceful option, and that there are proposals, which, if they were taken seriously, carefully, and with good intentions, then the meeting would have placed the entire world on the first step of peace. We were very pessimistic about the cancellation of this meeting. We feel that there was no sincerity with regard to this option—the peaceful option. He who wants peace does not stand up one week before a deadline and decide that war or peace will take place on that deadline, especially since there is no justification for hastiness. Saying 12 January is close to 15 January is not convincing for any wise person, especially if we notice that the Baker-'Aziz meeting is taking place on 9 January, three days before the date set for the Baker-Saddam meeting. Thus, 3 days are the only difference between the dates of the two meetings. Do we cancel a peaceful option for the sake of three days, unless the adoption of a peaceful solution was not intended?

Brothers, in your honorable house, I have said that we must be prepared regarding Israel and world Zionism. This is what we have feared; namely, that the Zionist lobby pressures will be effective on the U.S. Administration to proceed toward war. I have told your honorable house that in Israel they have said that they remained silent because they knew that there had been a decision for war and the destruction of Iraqi military power. When there were prospects of an earlier [U.S.-Iraqi] meeting, there were Israeli objections, which everyone heard, saying that they had been promised the destruction of Iraqi power by the United States. If there were an approach toward negotiations and discussions, then Israel would move to strike the Iraqi military power and the Iraqi developed capability. I bring this up so we can realize the Zionist influence on U.S. policy.

The war drums are now being beaten. There is great fear in the world that the meeting taking place today will be fruitless. If this happens, then I say frankly that this must have been premediated by Zionism and the United States. As we have mentioned before, the incident has happened, and we have not supported the occupation of Kuwait. The international society and the Security Council—which adopted resolutions 242 and 338—also adopted 12 resolutions within five months on the Gulf crisis—12 resolutions—until it reached the resolution on the use of force. Resolutions such as this were not adopted regarding the Palestinian question, and we saw nothing from international legitimacy—and this is the occupation of other people's land by force, and the evacuation of an entire people from their land.

Does wanting a just and peaceful solution to the Palestine question mean that we are declaring a vehement war against international legitimacy? Or does it mean that we have supported this legitimacy in exercising legitimate rights on the occupied territories as set forth in resolutions on the Gulf crisis—perhaps even gone beyond these rights in the Gulf crisis?

This linkage, or what they call linkage, is not an organic linkage. It is a linkage of principles and the use of resolutions to convince the world that what is called the new order, is really a new order toward peace and the prosperity of nations in the world. It is not a new order when the United States singlehandedly assumes control after the collapse of the empire of the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc, and leads the world by itself toward a war whose results are only known by God, and which will be a scourge to the whole world, not just the war region. The source of this civilization in the world and the means for its upkeep is the oil, which, if war takes place, will be destroyed, and will not be regenerated for 15 years, according to experts. These are the effects on civilization and on the future of the world.

When the United States takes control of the world as the single superpower, it is supposed to guide this world toward justice, civilization, and environmental protection, and not lead it toward destruction and domination.

In the event this war does break out, God forbid, any interference against Jordan from the air or ground will

be confronted militarily with all our available capabilities. As I mentioned to you, and as Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad told me, this attack will be considered an attack on Syria, which will enter the war against Israel. If Israel interferes militarily against Jordan, Jordan will call for help from Iraq and from Syria, and also from Egypt, because this will be an Israeli aggression on an Arab country. The equation drawn up in the minds of others—those who believe that Jordan is an easy target—will be changed totally. Jordan is not an easy target. Jordan will shield the whole Arab world if any aggression against it takes place. Jordan will take a united stand against any aggression. We will confront it with our utmost ferocity, and with all our potential. This is Jordan's stand—bright and crystal clear.

We call for peace, a just peace. However, we will not allow anyone to carry out an aggression against Jordan and its sovereignty.

Of course, there might be some doubt as to whether Jordan is fully prepared. The answer is yes. Jordan is fully prepared with all its potentials. Jordan has done a great deal, and will continue to do a great deal to avert a war. But if an aggression on Jordan takes place, we will confront it with all the power we have. Jordan has a distinguished position and will continue to have a distinguished position internationally and regionally. If an Israeli aggression takes place, even the Gulf countries and their people will raise the slogan that the Israeli aggression has first priority and the Gulf crisis second—even in that region. This is because the Gulf crisis can be solved within the Arab fold. On the other hand, if any aggression takes place on Jordan by Israel, then all the Arab countries will stand alongside Jordan, because therein lies the real threat to the future of the Arab and Islamic nation. This is the real threat.

There is a European school of thought, led by France, on solving the issues in the region according to one standard. They say that this position could create a split on the western front and among the Western countries. The mere expression of a fair opinion on this subject means a split, as though the true proposal is to use force. We know that the use of force is not as others think—they think that it is a battle that would last a few weeks or months. It will go on for years. And when it happens, you will remember it. Iraq is fully prepared for this battle, and for spreading this battle. We know this, and that is why we are trying to focus on a peaceful solution and rule out the military option.

The brothers are most likely wondering—and the citizens are probably wondering also—whether we have reinforced our resources for all our needs. With our reserves of supplies and other goods, we can hold out for a period no less than nine months. This has required an enormous effort on our part to secure our strategic supplies of foodstuffs and other goods.

Through my speech here, I do not wish to show pessimism about a peaceful solution. We are still optimistic that peace, in one way or another, will find its way to the minds of those supporting a peaceful option.

As I mentioned previously, the meeting between Baker and 'Aziz today will give a good and clear indication on the future of the crisis. We ask God to stand by our side. We call on all world countries to stand alongside peace, and reject the use of force and war. Thank you.

[At the end of Badran's statement, an unidentified correspondent reports further, citing Badran as saying that evacuees have begun arriving in greater numbers than in previous days, and that Jordan has not been compensated for sums spent on evacuees. Badran is cited as saying that Saudi Arabia has closed its airspace, and that Iraq has been asked not to permit any evacuees to travel to Jordan, because all representatives of international organizations for evacuees have now departed. Therefore, Jordan will not allow them to enter. Badran added that deportees from the occupied territories will not be received in Jordan, in order to prevent Israel from clearing and later occupying those territories.]

Border Closure to Refugees Effective 9 Jan

JN0901172091 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1616 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Amman, 9 Jan (PETRA)—Interior Ministry Under Secretary Salamah Hammad, head of the committee in charge of refugees, has told PETRA NEWS AGENCY that a decision has been reached not to allow the entry of refugees of various nationalities into the country coming from Iraq and Kuwait as of this morning, Wednesday, 9 January 1991, until such time as specific programs are set for their departure by their governments and international organizations in coordination with the committee in charge of the evacuees. This decision was made in view of the difficulty in providing these evacuees with means of transportation to their countries and the absence of the necessary resources to realize this goal and provide them with all means of care.

French Nationals Advised To Leave Kingdom

JN1001114391 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1102 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] French Ambassador in Amman Denis Bauchard announced today that this evening France will put a private aircraft at the disposal of its nationals residing in Jordan to transport those who wish to return to France.

The French ambassador advised all French nationals who have no urgent engagements in Jordan to leave the Kingdom. He explained that the diplomats who are not undertaking necessary business and the families of diplomats working in the embassy will leave Amman this evening aboard the special French aircraft.

'Contradictions in International Legitimacy' Seen

JN0901144691 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Jan 91 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "Contradictions in International Legitimacy"]

[Text] Despite all the Security Council's recent resolutions on protecting the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, Israel has deported four Palestinian citizens, thereby ignoring all laws and values on which international legitimacy is based.

In fact, the Israeli measures, which the United States has described several times as a violation of human rights, express one of the distinguishing characteristics of the Israeli settlement policy and of its plans to evict Palestinians. Therefore, this new deportation decision arouses in us a strong feeling for the acute current conflict in this area between the legitimate owners and the invading settlers.

Israel's violation of the Security Council resolutions and recent calls for respect for Palestinian rights come at this particular time to unveil to the Arabs the weakness of the international legitimacy and its lack of credibility, especially since we clearly see how this alleged international legitimacy shows its teeth in the Gulf, while it closes its eyes to everything pertaining to the Palestine question.

By this behavior, Israel not only shows new proof of its indifference to the United Nations and the Security Council resolutions, but also clearly proves that the international legitimacy being used by the Americans is only a thin veil that cannot cover the premeditated intentions, as is the case in the Arabian Gulf today.

Israel's new crime against the Palestinians should alarm the Arab leaders regarding the obvious contradictions in international legitimacy, especially since defenders of the this legitimacy in the Gulf completely ignore the problem of Israel and sometimes encourage it to violate human rights. Therefore, we should realize that international legitimacy and law and the UN resolutions have no real values unless they are based on intrinsic power, to which the West is trying to deal a blow in Iraq.

Badran Heads First Cabinet Session After Shuffle

JN0501200891 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran today chaired the first Cabinet session since the government reshuffle. Welcoming the ministers who joined the government team, the prime minister said that at this juncture, all national efforts must be joined in the interest of riding out challenges.

The prime minister outlined the political situation nationally and externally, singling out His Majesty King Husayn's efforts on behalf of a peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis, and noting his current European tour. He pointed out Jordan's appreciation of efforts to promote that goal, notably the recent French and nonaligned initiatives. Mr. Badran said he hoped these efforts will concentrate on staving off a devastating war in the Gulf.

Domestically, the prime minister noted the solid, cohesive state of our internal front, and the need to strive for still better bureaucratic and public services to the general public after a study of government agencies has been carried out.

Fatah Council on Belgian Hostage Release Date

NC0901180591 Paris AFP in English 1708 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Tripoli, Lebanon, Jan 9 (AFP)—Four Belgian hostages in the Middle East and a Palestinian jailed in Belgium are likely to be freed by Thursday, the Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) said Wednesday.

"The agreement reached after several meetings between the FRC and the Belgian Government stipulates the simultaneous release of our comrade Nasir Sa'id and the last four prisoners," FRC spokesman Walid Khalid said.

"No time limit has been laid down, but I think the releases will take place tomorrow, Thursday, at the latest," he told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in this north Lebanon port city.

Belgium admitted earlier Wednesday that it had made a pact to swap the jailed Palestinian for the four hostages.

"An agreement in principle was reached some months ago on an exchange and as far as we know this agreement has not been called into question by the Belgian Government," a foreign ministry spokesman said in Brussels.

The FRC, headed by by Palestinian extremist Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], said Tuesday that the four Belgians, seized from a yacht in the eastern Mediterranean, had been moved from Lebanon "to a friendly country to be exchanged for comrade Nasir Sa'id."

The four, who are believed to be in Libya, are Emmanuel Houtekins, his wife Godelieve Kets and their children Laurent, 20 and Valerie, 19. The FRC said it seized them and four other passengers of the yacht Silco in 1987.

Mr. Sa'id was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1980 for throwing a grenade at a group of Jewish children in Antwerp, Belgium. One child was killed and six were seriously injured.

The Palestinian became eligible for parole last July after serving 10 years of his sentence. However on Tuesday, the Belgian Justice Ministry said it had "made no decision so far" on his release.

The four other hostages from the yacht, including a child born in captivity, were freed in 1988 and in April last year. They too were freed with the help of Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Government Wins Vote of Confidence

NC0901172491 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1707 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has stated that the government has won a vote of confidence by a majority of 37 votes. Three deputies did not give him a vote of confidence.

Official Sources View U.S. Position on Army

NC1001065391 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Official diplomatic sources have denied that the United States has advised the Lebanese Government to delay the Army's deployment in Iqlim al-Tuffah, western al-Biqa', and other parts of the south.

The sources stressed that the U.S. position on the implementation of the cabinet decision, which supports the government's efforts to impose its authority over all Lebanese territory, is clear and has been conveyed to the Lebanese Government by U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker. They added that the official U.S. stand is supportive and practical.

The sources revealed that Ambassador Crocker yesterday told Lebanese officials: You decide what you want to do, and we will support you.

The diplomatic sources added that the government's current efforts are aimed at facilitating the implementation of the cabinet decision to deploy the Army in the south, ensuring that it will not face any obstacles, and exploiting the opportunity provided by international and regional support to implement the al-Ta'if accord, which includes efforts to secure the implementation of Resolution 425. They added that it is within this framework that the government is continuing its contacts, particularly with the U.S., to ensure that the implementation of the cabinet decision enjoys international and regional support.

Birri Comments on Army Deployment in South

NC1001132791 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Minister of State Nabih Birri today said that the government's decision to send the Army to the south is final. That decision, he said, is a matter of Lebanese sovereignty, and the Army should not contest it. In an interview with AL-'AWASIF magazine, Birri said he expects action to be taken on this issue in a reasonable timeframe. If the Army fails to act on the arrangements which we, and not the U.S. Embassy, make, then we will take a clear stand, not against the government—for it has already made a decision—but against the Army command.

Minister Birri said that the new government has at least made a verbal commitment toward the south, but the substance of this commitment has yet to be tested.

Minister Birri commented on the special ties with Syria by saying: This topic is crucial and should be embodied in a contract, for these ties are more in Lebanon's interests than in Syria's at this time, when the whole world is opting for unity and unification.

Prime Minister on Response to Israeli Attack

JN0901230391 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran has said that His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad affirmed to him that any Israeli attack on Jordan is considered an attack on Syria. In a speech before the Jordanian House of Representatives today, Mr. Badran said Jordan will resist any Israeli aggression. Mr. Badran said any Israeli aggression will be considered an aggression against Arab countries, not Jordan only.

Iraqi 'Intransigence' Blamed for Geneva Failure

JN1001074091 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 10 Jan 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In one of its commentaries in the "Behind the News" column, TISHRIN writes on the failure of yesterday's talks in Geneva between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his Iraqi counterpart, Tariq 'Aziz. The paper says: Undoubtedly, by not responding to the calls to withdraw from Kuwait, Iraq is fanning the flames and pushing toward the destruction of Iraq and its resources and capabilities, despite the fact that it had a chance to avoid this at the Geneva talks.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: Because the Iraqi regime has acted obstinately and rejected all the chances offered to it, it will certainly bear the consequences for that intransigence because it seems determined to drive the Iraqi people to catastrophe and expose the Arab homeland to threats and grave impending dangers.

Romanian Foreign Minister on Damascus Visit

Discusses Mutual Ties

JN0801181691 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Dr. Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs, received today Adrian Nastase, Romanian minister of foreign affairs, who was accompanied by Senate member (Honescu), House of Deputies member (Biscaru), and the other members of the Romanian delegation. The meeting was attended by Romanian ambassador in Damascus Ion Melciotu and State Planning Commission technicians.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed various aspects of the three-decade-old economic and trade cooperation in light of agreements signed by the two friendly countries—agreements on land reclamation and the cement, oil, and energy industry, as well as other fields.

Dr. Baqjaji provided insight into the structure of the national economy and projects being undertaken. He reviewed available resources for the establishment of new projects in which the Romanian side can participate.

The Romanian foreign minister then spoke, thanking the minister of state for planning affairs for his hospitality. He also praised the friendly economic cooperation between the two countries, Syria and Romania.

During the meeting, they also reviewed various available possibilities for expanding economic cooperation and finding new avenues for it. They also centered on cooperation in the field of oil and energy and discussed ways to find suitable formulas to attain that goal. They also exchanged views on the agenda of the Syrian-Romanian joint committee for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation, which will hold its meetings later this year.

The Romanian foreign minister had arrived in Damascus this morning on an official visit to Syria. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs. The guest minister said that the aim of his visit was to hold talks with Syrian officials on promoting cooperation and ties between the two countries, and well as exchange views on peace prospects in the Gulf over the past few weeks.

Confers With Al-Shar'

JN0901060991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase this evening. The meeting was attended by Romanian Senate member (Honescu), House of Deputies member (Biscaru), the Romanian ambassador in Damascus, and members of the accompanying delegation. The director of the information department and the director of the European department at the Foreign Ministry were present.

During the meeting, they discussed relations between the two countries and ways to promote them. Talks also centered on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the situation in the region in light of the latest developments in the Gulf crisis.

Delivers Message to Al-Asad

JN0901175191 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1345 today Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase and the accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Romanian ambassador in Damascus.

Mr. Nastase conveyed to the president a message from Romanian President Ion Iliescu. The talks dealt with bilateral relations and the current situation in the region, the Gulf crisis in particular.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Launch Suprise Attacks Jan 5, 6, 7

BK1001013091 Karachi DAWN in English 9 Jan 91 p 10

[Text] Peshawar, Jan 8—The Mujahidin launched a surprise attack on the communists positions on Jan. 6, killing 20 soldiers and two officers and eliminating a number of the Communist Militia, reports PPI [PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL].

The Muhajidin used surface-to-surface rockets and BM-12 multiple barrel rocket launchers in the attack.

The Mujahidin has captured the strategic valley Bom in Murghab district of Badghis province.

As many as 15 servicemen of the regime were killed, four others injured and the rest fled away.

A huge quantity of arms and ammunition including 80 Kalashnikovs were seized by the Mujahidin, the report added.

Nabi Jan, a group commander along with two Mujahids were martyred in the conflict, the report said.

Meanwhile, the Mujahidin under Commander Maulvi Sidiquallh shelled the Communist positions in the military academy and the fourth armoured squardon in Kabul, killing a total of 16 soldiers and officers and destroying two tanks on Jan. 5.

Meanwhile, the operational battalion of Khad of the Ghazni Province was on Jan. 6 and 7 attacked by the long-range artillery of the Mujahidin of the region, killing two high-ranking officers of Khad and a number of militiamen. The Khad's network of the Ghazni province suffered a severe setback after losing its key men.

Despite severe cold weather the Mujahidin attacks on the regime security posts is still continuing in far and wide of Afghanistan.

Air Force Retaliates

BK1001114491 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin during a surprise attack on the military consignments of the Kabul regime at (Kangi Kashgarfam) last Monday [7 January] are reported to have killed 14 militiamen. As many as 21 vehicles loaded with ammunition were destroyed in the attack. Two tanks were also hit. In retaliation, the Kabul air force bombarded the region inflicting heavy damages to the civilian population.

And in a rocket attack on (Chamgari) Battalion in Konduz Province, the mujahidin killed five militiamen and injured eight others last week.

Najibullah Appoints Abdul Sorabi Vice President

LD0701143491 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Kabul, 7 Jan (BAKHTAR)—The Presidential Press Office reports to BAKHTAR that Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, has issued a decree appointing a vice president. The following is the text of the decree:

In accordance with Article 81, paragraph eight of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, I appoint Esteemed Academician Dr. 'Abdul Wahed Sorabi as vice president of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The Meli Shura of Afghanistan will make a decision on this based on the above mentioned article of the Constitution. [Signed] Najibullah, President of Afghanistan.

Cabinet Discusses Mass Media, Other Issues

LD0701205391 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Excerpts] The prime minister's Press Office reported to the BAKHTAR Information Agency that the Council of Ministers general session, presided over by Fazl Haq Khaleqyar, the prime minister, was held this morning in the prime minister's palace and a series of decisions were made on national issues and the proposals of ministers.

At the beginning of the session, the prime minister stressed the implementation of esteemed Najibullah's instructions about the shortcomings and defects of the mass media and the government's previous orders in this regard. He assigned the minister of information and culture to regularize the country's publications and press—in keeping with the national reconciliation policy, with the requirements of the time and with the wishes of the people—to take action vigorously. Esteemed Khaleqyar also asked members of the cabinet to cooperate cordially with members of mass media when they approach them and tell the truth to all of them.

Instructions were also given by the esteemed prime minister on improving the organization of meetings of ministers with members of the Meli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan, and on active participation in the Shura's administrative board's official sessions.

Esteemed Khaleqyar noted the results of those measures and provisions which are taken by the appointed commission under the supervision of Deputy prime Minister Mahmud Barialay, regarding the prevention of the shortage of necessary primary goods, control over the distribution of oil, and the regularization of urban transport. He drew the attention of relevant authorities to the implementation of the draft protocol.

Afterward the report of Abdul Wahed Sorabi, deputy prime minister and minister of planning, on the implementation of previous government instructions on the search for ways to improve the living conditions of

government employees was heard. Approving and complimentary views and proposals were presented by members of the cabinet. The high session of ministers decided that as from the beginning of 1370 [21 March 91], on free distribution of flour and ghee to ration card holders, three other items—tea, sugar and soap—shall also be given to them free in line with the norm instituted in 1369. Also the Council of Ministers ratified and approved for government employees, including civil and military officers, income tax at the level of 120,000 afghanis for married persons and 60,000 afghanis for single persons.

Talks were conducted in the general session about the proposal of Professor Mohammad Anwar Shams, minister of higher and vocational education, on incentive allowances to administrative and academic staff of schools of technical education, and it was decided that the craft should be reviewed again.

The high council of ministers approved the establishment of a specialist [word indistinct] faculty in the central military hospital of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The session of the Council of Ministers heard and approved the report of Gholam Mohaiddin Shahbaz, minister of central statistics, on the transformation of the legal entity of the computer services corporation into a computer services public limited company. The Council of Ministers approved a resolution to ensure a widespread computer service and to provide statistical data for accounting and research purposes and to transform the legal entity of the computer services corporation. [passage omitted]

The session also decided that state employees should be given promotion on 28 Asad [19 August] of every year, and in this respect the amendment of Article 24 of the state employees law was approved.

Bangladesh

Pre-Poll Violence Leaves 2 Dead in Chittagong

BK0901165891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1655 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, Jan 9 (AFP)—At least two people were killed and 10 others injured in the first major pre-poll violence here Wednesday ahead of next month's key Bangladesh parliamentary election, police and other sources said.

Two people, one of them a 14-year-old boy, were killed during a running battle between rival student activists in this port city's Halishahar District, witnesses said.

Ten others, including two firemen, were wounded and several local shops were set afire, police said, adding that the clash followed fighting in the past two days in the area in the runup to the February 27 polls.

Official BSS News Agency confirmed two deaths and seven injured in overnight clashes. An unconfirmed report put the death toll at three.

Witnesses said the boy was killed when police opened fire on battling members of the student wings of Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League and their rivals from the Bangladesh Nationalist Party of Begum Khaleda Zia. The groups became embroiled in a dispute over fixing election posters.

Police admitted that they opened fire with blanks but denied they killed anybody. They said police reinforcements arrived and had managed to control the sitution.

Official Says Envoy To Postpone Return to Iraq

BK0901072691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0652 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 9 (AFP)—Muflih 'Uthmani, Bangladesh's ambassador to Iraq, has postponed his return to Baghdad as Dhaka has decided to maintain a skeleton staff only at its embassy there, an official source said Wednesday.

"He is not returning for the moment and from now on there will be a counsellor with a minumum staff to run the Baghdad embassy because of the threat of war in the region," the source said.

Mr. 'Uthmani arrived in Dhaka about two weeks ago on home leave and for consultations, and the embassy staff had been partially cut earlier.

In reference to an Islamic conference being hosted by Iraq and starting Wednesday, a senior official said, "Dhaka has nothing to do with it... Those of our citizens participating are doing so in their personal capacity."

They do not represent the government or the country, he added.

Bangladesh has contributed a small contingent of troops to the multinational force in the Gulf opposing Iraq's annexation of Kuwait.

Acting President Appoints 14th Adviser

BK0701154891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1521 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 7 (AFP)—Bangladesh's acting President Shahabuddin Ahmed appointed a former bureaucrat Monday as the 14th member of his Council of Advisors, national television said.

It said Imamuddin Ahmed has been put in charge of the Commerce Ministry. The main task of Shahabuddin Ahmed's government, which took over from ousted President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's eight-year-old regime on December 6, is to hold free and fair parliamentary elections scheduled for February 27.

Interim Government Uncovers 'Fake Industries'

BK0701154691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1437 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 7 (AFP)—Bangladesh's interim government has unearthed a large number of paper companies approved by the ousted regime of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, an official statement said here Monday.

It said 13,231 industrial firms were under investigation and steps were being taken to cancel approval granted by the Board of Investment (BoI) and to take legal action against the "fake industries."

BoI was headed by Moudud Ahmed, vice president in Mr. Ershad's government. He is now under house arrest and has been charged with corruption.

India

Tamil Nadu Chief Denies LTTE-Assam Link

BK0901164291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr. S. Karunanidhi, has denied that there is any link between the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and the ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam]. Addressing a press conference in Madras today, Mr. Karunanidhi said even assuming that there are links between the two, it is for the center to detect it in time and take action. He charged the Congress-I and the AIADMK [All India Anna-Dravida Munnetra Kazagham] with initiating propaganda deliberately with political motives.

Foreign Minister Seeks 'Frank Appraisal' of Gulf

BK0901163891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, has called for a frank appraisal of the events in the Gulf and the scenario likely to emerge there in the coming days. Addressing the heads of Indian missions in the Gulf in New Delhi today, he said India is seriously concerned about the consequences of a war, jeopardizing the availability of fuel oil and the safety of about 1.2 million Indian nationals in the region. He underlined the geopolitical reality of interlink between West Asia and South Asia and said we have to evolve a framework to implement our well-thought-out policies which are in tune with our vital national interests. He urged the heads of Indian missions to suggest possible courses of action that the country may have to take in the event of a war breaking out in the Gulf.

Government To Modify Affidavit on Disqualification

BK0901135191 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] The government will suitably modify its affidavit filed before the Delhi High Court on the disqualification issue to ensure that there is no interference with the office of the speaker. This was announced by the prime minister in the Lok Sabha today after about five hours of heated discussion on an adjournment motion on protecting the authority of the speaker from the jurisdiction of courts. Following the assurance, the leader of the opposition, Mr. L.K. Advani, withdrew the motion.

Responding to the unanimous demand that the supremacy of parliament be upheld, Mr. Chandra Shekhar told members that necessary steps will be taken to ensure this as the government never intended to lower the prestige of the house. He said the parliament is the supreme authority in deciding its proceedings and no court can challenge it. The prime minister's remarks were preceded by an appeal by the Congress-I leader, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, to rectify the affidavit which, he said, was not in accordance with the letter and spirit of the anti-defection law.

Mann 'Strongly' Criticizes Kidnapping, Extortion

BK1001041891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] The Akali Dal-Mann president, Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann, has strongly criticized the acts of kidnapping, extortions, and abductions. In a statement in Ludhiana, Mr. Mann warned his partymen that if any one of them was found indulging in such activities, he will be expelled from the party.

Three Killed in Police Encounter in West Bengal

BK1001041691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] In West Bengal, three persons, including an assistant sub-inspector of police, were killed and three others injured in an encounter between the police and militants in Arsara Police Station area of Purlia District yesterday. According to state home secretary the militants armed with highly sophisticated weapons attacked the police party and later escaped in a hijacked vehicle. The militants are suspected to be hidden in Jaipur, a place near Bengal Bihar border. The border has been sealed and the Bihar government has been alerted. The home secretary said six persons, including four policemen, have been killed in encounters with militants in the last three days.

Iran

Iraqi Delegation Continues Official Visit

Meets With President

LD1001115191 Tehran IRNA in English 0951 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 10, IRNA—Vice-Chairman of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council 'Izzat Ibrahim and a

delegation from Iraq met with President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Thursday [10 January].

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said to the Iraqi delegation that in order that Iran and Iraq may cooperate in various areas of mutual interest it is necessary that efforts be made so that the people of Iran may forget the injuries inflicted on them as a result of the situation between the two countries in the previous years.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani added that Iran knows the "dangerous goals of the United States" in the region. He said there are other problems in the region which have entailed the "extensive presence in the region of ill-will forces" and its consequent aftermath. He said the Islamic Republic of Iran is studying the situation with a view to finding out how tension in the region may be defused.

'Izzat Ibrahim expressed pleasure for his meeting with the Iranian president and said the trip to Tehran had been part of the efforts of the Iraqi Government to re-establish relations between the two neighboring countries. He also called for more frequent contacts between Iranian and Iraqi delegates.

First Vice-President of Iran Hasan Habibi, Road and Transport Minister Mohammad Sa'idi-Kia, vice-president for legal and parliamentary affairs Fatollah Mohajerani, First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati and their Iraqi counterparts were also present in the meeting.

The Iraqi delegation arrived here Tuesday [8 January] for talks with Iranian officials on issues of mutual interest and the latest developments in the Persian Gulf.

Hammadi Meets Velayati

LD1001113491 Tehran IRNA in English 1037 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 10, IRNA—The visiting member of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council Sa'dun Hammadi accompanied by the Iraqi delegation met with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Wednesday evening. [9 January].

Expressing pleasure with the progress in Iran-Iraq bilateral relation, Hammadi stressed that the Iraqi leadership is determined to establish a lasting peace between the two countries and to further deepen mutual bonds. The senior Iraqi official also reiterated the need to settle all remaining problems between Tehran and Baghdad.

Turning to the Persian Gulf crisis, Hammadı said that extensive military presence of the U.S. in the area is in line with Washington's policy of seeking domination over the regional oil wells and states. He also briefed Velayati on Iraq's policy in connection with the crisis.

Velayati expressed pleasure with both countries' efforts in sorting out all the remaining problems between the two countries and underlined Iran's goodwill in removing the remaining problems impeding establishment of a lasting peace and good-neighbourly relations.

Velayati said, "As it is known to all we are against the presence of alien forces in the region." However, he added that the Islamic Republic as a principle is against any territorial ambition and resort to military action. "We believe that occupation of Kuwait has put the region and the Persian Gulf in a very dangerous situation," he added.

Hammadi arrived here last Tuesday accompanying vice-chairman of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council 'Izzat Ibrahim.

Al-Sahaf Meets Besharati

LD1001073391 Tehran IRNA in English 0615 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 10, IRNA—The latest developments in the Persian Gulf and Tehran-Baghdad ties were discussed in a meeting of First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati and the visiting Iraqi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahaf here Wednesday.

Besharati stressed Iran's opposition to occupation of Kuwait and presence of alien forces in the Persian Gulf which he said has led to severe insecurity. He also told the Iraqi official that military solution is the worst option for settling the crisis and that such an approach will be detrimental to the resources in the region.

He also emphasized sorting out the Iran-Iraq border issues and the remaining Iranian war prisoners in Iraq.

The Iraqi minister who arrived here Tuesday with Vice-Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council 'Izzat Ibrahim, outlined Baghdad's views on settling the current crisis.

On Iran-Iraq ties, Al-Sahaf said that the existing problems must be sorted out and added "we have repeatedly stated that Iraq is determined to settle the border disputes on the basis of the 1975 accord." He added that Ibrahim also made this issue clear in his talks on Tuesday.

Al-Sahaf said that Baghdad is for promotion of bilateral ties on the basis of mutual respect and non-interference in internal affairs of each other.

Commentary on Visit

LD0901220491 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Unattributed station commentary]

[Excerpts] Mr. 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council, who is in Tehran for holding talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials, yesterday afternoon, while being accompanied by

his delegation members, held the first round of negotiations with Iran's First Vice President, Dr. Hassan Habibi. [passage omitted]

Upon his arrival in Tehran the vice chairman of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council described his visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran as useful within the framework of bilateral cooperation, and stressed the interest of the Iraqi leadership in expanding cordial ties with Iran.

The current three-day trip of Mr. 'Izzat Ibrahim to Tehran following acceptance of 1975 Algiers Treaty by Iraq and preparation of ground for enforcement of the UN Security Council Resolution 598 is in fact indicative of the effort which is being made for elevating Baghdad-Tehran relations. Therefore, in the wake of the start of the process of enforcement of Resolution 598, withdrawal of troops to behind the internationally recognized frontiers and exchange of POWs between the two countries presently there is observed an interest in them for establishing total and durable peace toward the efforts which are being made in this regard. [sentence as heard] The reason is that due to the central location of Iran and Iraq and considering potential and actual resources which they possess and also (?being situated) in the Persian Gulf region, improvement of bilateral relations is assessed as a positive move. Also common religion and historical links between the two nations of Iran and Iraq are of noticeable value. Bright prospects which are observed in the future ties between these two neighbors can have a positive trend in all fields.

However, in this respect though many transgressions on the part of imperialists and colonialists through various channels cannot be ignored. As such there is need for due caution and careful move.

The visit of Mr. 'Izzat Ibrahim and his team to Iran can pave the way for establishment of total peace between Tehran and Baghdad thus giving [word indistinct] to the process of cooperation between the two nations.

In the view of ongoing crisis in the Persian Gulf region that is passing through a sensitive situation and considering Iran's independent and neutral stand on the turmoil, as long as the role they like to play in relation to ways of resolving it, Mr. 'Izzat Ibrahim's parleys with the Iranian officials, because of the region's significance and illegitimate interests being sought by alien forces through their presence in the area, may lead toward a peaceful settlement to the crisis. [sentence as heard] However, this point should not go unheeded that improvement of Tehran-Baghdad ties, in view of the two countries' role in the region and their belief in the policy calling for a collective security in the area can give the tiding of a new era in positive relations among the regional states. Such ties, under the prevailing conditions, will show to everyone the abortiveness of foreign troops presence and its detrimental consequences.

Karrubi Says War Likely; Stresses Noninvolvement

LD1001085991 Tehran IRNA in English 0639 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan 10, IRNA—Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi said in an interview with the British Channel 4 Television Wednesday that in light of the current developments in the Persian Gulf a military encounter is a more likely happening. He said it would be difficult to predict the implications and the consequences of war in the Persian Gulf, but made it clear that in the event a war should break out Iran would not involve herself in the interest of either party to the conflict.

Karrubi said irrespective of subsequent developments Iran would steer a policy independent of that of the ruling powers, and reminded that the attitude of the big powers towards the Iran-Iraq conflict at the outset of the conflict and in the subsequent years had been responsible for Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on August 2.

He said the Islamic Republic of Iran continues to be "a revolutionary system" and that the revolutionary ideology in Iran has already left its impact elsewhere in the world. The uprising of the Palestinians, he said, is evidence of the impact of the Islamic revolution in Iran.

Asked to comment on the reasons why the general situation at home has been markedly calmer more recently, the speaker of the Majles said that there was some degree of obvious difference of outlooks with certain positions of the ruling system in connection to such aspects as the issue of hijab (Islamic veil) but that as the system found a more solid footing in the Iranian society occasional ideological encounters naturally became markedly less prominent.

Navy Deputy Stresses Neutrality in Gulf Conflict

LD1001000291 Tehran IRNA in English 1641 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Bushehr, Jan 9, IRNA—If Iraq continues to occupy Kuwaiti soil, the likelihood of a regional clash will become inevitable, Deputy Commander of the naval forces Rear-Admiral 'Abbas Mohtajk said here today.

"In case a clash takes place, Iran will remain neutral, however, we will not allow either of the sides involved to use our air, sea and land routes against the other," Mohtaj said.

Announcing the readiness of the naval forces to defend the country's coast and interests in the Persian Gulf, he said "The Navy has achieved great success in many military areas, thanks to the inovations and efforts of its skilled personnel."

Some equipment was also purchased from abroad which will significantly add to the efficiency and powers of the navy once it is deployed, he said.

Mohtaj said repair work and maintenance of all naval systems was totaly carried out by the naval personnel, who are all trained inside the country.

He also expressed the Navy's readiness for the training of the naval personnel of friendly countries.

Khamene'i Says Gulf Belongs to Islam

LD0901144791 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1105 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Speech by leader of the Islamic Revolution 'Ali Khamene'i on the occasion of the 9 January anniversary of the Qom uprising to a delegation of the people of Qom on 9 January; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I congratulate you, brave and progressive brethren and sisters, whose names are coupled with the revolution and the glorious history of the revolution, on the occasion of this great day and historical juncture. [passage omitted]

If someone wants to call it a miracle, let them do so. But this is not one of those miracles that are unrepeatable. It is one with a clear cause and effect, repeatable everywhere in the world—at all times. Any nation, any great group of people who believe in God and whose hearts are illuminated with the light of faith and are ready for sacrifices—any such people can defeat any power, no matter how powerful it be. [chants of "God is Great," "Down with Israel and America"] This became a principle. [passage omitted]

One corollary of this is that we should realise that because the contributing factor for the victory of Islam and the nation of Iran was the gathering of the faithful and self-sacrificing people, then the enemies of Islam and of the Iranian nation will try to get rid of this factor. You cannot destroy the people, so they try to undermine the faith inside people, and destroy it. They try to undermine the spirit of self-sacrifice in the people. How do they undermine the spirit of self-sacrifice, faith, and hope in the people? By harmful propaganda; by disinformation; by false and malicious allegations against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Iranian nation, authorities, servers, and believers; by making people despondent; by amplifying problems; by ignoring progress and achievements. This is done by the enemies.

Any remark made today that might cause despondency among the people of the Islamic Republic, no matter who makes the remark, will be considered an enemy's remark. [shouts of approval by the audience] The United States, arrogance, Zionism, and the arrogant systems spend money to make the Iranian nation despondent in continuing this path, and to make them give up hope in the Islamic Republic, Islam, and the Koran. They strive and plan to this purpose. Anyone who makes the people despondent, anyone who downgrades the services, the progress, and the successful achievements of the Islamic Republic in the eyes of this people and among the Muslims of the world, is considered to be speaking with the enemy's tongue, even if he himself does not understand or realize it.

When a state and a nation are moving toward a great goal, while all the bullies of the world are against this move, it is obvious that for a time there will be difficulties, delays, and shortcomings in the work of this state. If one were to observe the achievements of the Iranian nation and the steps taken by this country's authorities so far, in order to eliminate the difficulties left from the previous regime and the war—despite the obstacles and mischievous deeds of the enemy—he would realize that a great deal of work is done. This is the first point.

You should, therefore, know that the enemies of Islam—arrogance and colonialism, and the enemies of this revolution whoever they are, from the United States and its propaganda systems to Zionism, the counterrevolution and the mini-groups—their main objective is to separate this people from the main factor of their victory, that is, the people's faith and the people's hope. This is because they are frightened of it.

The second point is this: What brought progress and victory to the Iranian nation can also bring victory and progress to the nation of Iran in all its future goals. We are still near the starting point of this path. We still have a long way to go in order to implement Islam. We have many duties and tasks ahead of us so as to combat the arrogant ones' conspiracies against this country, against this region, and against all the oppressed nations. We must perform these duties. We have a lot of work to do, and have a great burden of responsibility on our shoulders to create comfort and a well-deserved lifestyle for this great and devoted nation. We have a lot to do, and many steps to take, to make up for the destruction left over the decades by the agents of arrogance and colonialism in this country.

These are all immense tasks. Let no one imagine that these tasks are impossible, or that the Iranian nation is incapable of performing them, as this is regarded as being ungrateful toward God's blessings. There is no task ahead of us that could be more demanding than the main revolution victory and the establishment of the Islamic Republic. This nation managed to perform the most difficult tasks—that is, the establishment of an Islamic system, a divine haven of peace and security in the midst of this tumultous ocean of materialism, blasphemy, and rebellion. We—you the nation, you the youth, you the believers, you the selfless mothers and fathers and those of you who gave their lives for the sake of God—you managed to perform this task. You managed to safeguard and develop your gain. What task is greater or more difficult than this? Who can think the Iranian nation is incapable of performing a task?

When we say we fight against the hegemony of U.S. arrogance in this region, we are not exaggerating. We say this with the backing of the same great and undiminished power of the committed and selfless people.

We will not allow an arrogant and invasive power to be present in our Islamic region, in the Persian Gulf. The world needs the Persian Gulf today, and it belongs to

Muslims. We shall not allow it to interfere in the security arrangements of this region, to interfere and control the issue of oil, its trade, or its price. Are the people of Iran dead? Are the peoples of the region dead? Will these people allow the United States to create a security system? Will they let it overlook and control the flow of oil tankers, or other issues important to the people of this area? World powers must know that the home of the great Islamic force that has today shaken arrogant powers is in this Islamic region, in Islamic Iran. It will not allow them to rule in this region, to show force in this region, or to control the political situation of this region. This region is an Islamic region, and belongs to Muslims. We categorically reject any idea that the arrogant system has become friendly with Islam or with the Islamic revolution. We know that arrogance and the Great Satan will never be friends with Islam, especially revolutionary Islam. We firmly believe that this Satan will never be able to inflict any harm on this Muslim nation or on the Islamic movement in the region. [crowd chants "Death to America and Israel"] [passage omitted]

Emergency Islamic Conference Summit Requested

LD0901121691 Tehran IRNA in English 1029 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Athens, Jan. 9, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran had sent a request to secretary general of the Jeddah-based Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), Hamid al-Ghabid, to call for an emergency Islamic summit to discuss the Persian Gulf crisis, Saudi daily AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Tuesday reported.

Al-Ghabid will place Iran's request before the member states to know their views before taking a final decision.

Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a meeting with his Turkish and Pakistani counterparts in Islamabad last week had called for the holding of an emergency Islamic summit to find a peaceful solution to the crisis.

The offices of the fifth OIC summit and the 19th Islamic foreign ministers' conference were to hold an extraordinary meeting in Jeddah Tuesday on the level of ambassadors to discuss the crisis sparked by Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait.

The OIC chief has dispatched urgent messages in this regard to the leaders of countries holding the office of the fifth Islamic summit. They are the exiled emir of Kuwait, president of the summit, and his deputies who are the heads of Gabon, Maldives, Palestine and Morocco.

He also sent similar messages to the foreign ministers of Egypt, which holds the presidency of the office of the 19th ministerial conference, and Senegal, Turkey, Palestine and Saudi Arabia.

A large number of Muslim leaders have appealed to Al-Ghabid to act to avert a catastrophe in the region.

Paper Says Gulf Situation Taken 'Too Lightly'

LD1001102691 Tehran IRNA in English 0849 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 10, IRNA—A commemtary printed in the Thursday issue of the Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI says that Iran has taken the Persian Gulf situation only too lightly, and that her policy of sit-back-and-watch in that respect, runs somehow counter to her declared policies which are embedded in the aspirations of the Islamic revolution.

It said the Islamic Republic of Iran should exercise her own rights for making a decision in light of the developments at the Persian Gulf, especially because as a principle the country advocates offerring help to others for safeguarding peace and security in the Persian Gulf. The commentary added that a laissez-faire policy by Iran would be against declared policies.

The commentary said in part:

"Since the outbreak of the current crisis the Islamic Republic of Iran has expressly voiced her opposition against the presence in the region of foreign forces. That position is within the context of a political outlook which considers the presence of foreign forces as a threat against the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all Muslim nations of the region and especially the Islamic Republic of Iran. "Undoubtedly that political outlook is founded on a sound and proper approach to the present conditions, as well as a proper anticipation of future contingencies.

"Obviously those who have made that political outlook central to the diplomacy and actions of the Islamic Republic of Iran know too well that as long as policies do not form the groundwork for action and that as long as they are merely unfulfilled slogans they will have no value and will be identical with or similar to any other slogan, as though they had not been voiced in the beginning. Well over five months since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait the region has experienced threats against itself as it was expected to.

"Naturally within the framework of our declared position and of our policies we must have offered a response to each and every threat, though it seems that at least with respect to certain instances at which those threats have been realized we have taken the situation only too casually.

"During the past five months since the presence in the region of foreign forces one of the potential threats that have been actualized has been the disrupting of the normal sea and air traffic within the territorial domain of the nations as well as the violations of the territorial waters and airspace of the countries of the region. Specifically in that respect we have witnessed disruption in the normal conduct of sea and air traffic of the Islamic Republic of Iran within her airspace and territorial waters as well as violations of the country's territories in that part.

"Even at some instances there have been reports somehow alluding to reconnaissance operations and aerial photographing of our installations in the Persian Gulf islands in addition to threats against our boats. But although such threats have become more serious in nature and scope with the passing of the time we have as yet witnessed no reaction on the part of Iran or even by our diplomatic entity.

"The declared policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran indicate that when necessary Iran is prepared to offer her resources to others and thereby obviate the need for the presence in the region of foreign forces, but laissez-faire policies towards violations of national security and sovereignty on whatsoever ground would imply a blatant contradiction in the opinion of the people against that policy and would prompt the people to suspect the validity of that policy as an official position...."

Paper Warns Against Attacking Holy Sites in Iraq

NC0901133791 Paris AFP in English 1145 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan 9 (AFP)—An influential Iranian newspaper with close ties to the government on Wednesday warned the West not to attack sacred Shiite Moslem sites in Iraq in any conflict with Baghdad in the Gulf.

The English-language TEHRAN TIMES also reported that in a meeting here President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani will warn Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's second-in-command, 'Izzat Ibrahim, that "war (in the Gulf) would not be in the interest of the Muslim people of the region."

Mr. Husayn has repeatedly sought to portray his seizure of Kuwait and his subsequent standoff with the United States as an Islamic jihad or holy war against Western infidelity and decadence.

Iran denounced the Iraqi invasion and, according to the TEHRAN TIMES, "will not tolerate any geographical changes in the region because ... this would be the beginning of a new period of instability in the volatile and strategic Persian Gulf."

But Iranian authorities have likewise sharply criticized the massive deployment of Western—mainly U.S.—forces in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf, which are now poised for a military strike to drive Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

"It is imperative to warn the Westerners that in case of war the holy places in Iraq should remain safe from any aggression.

"Such holy sites al-Najaf, Karbala' and Sammara are the most sacred Islamic sites after Mecca and al-Madinah (in Saudi Arabia) and any attack on them will not be tolerated by any Muslim.

"Islamic Iran will not be indifferent to any such carnage."

The newspaper's comments came on the second day of a visit here of a senior Iraqi delegation headed by Mr. 'Ibrahim, the highest ranking Iraqi to come to Iran since President Husayn's surprise acceptance last August of Tehran's terms for ending their eight-year war.

Pakistan

Extra Security Provided to U.S., Other Missions

BK0901152991 Lahore THE NATION in English 9 Jan 91 pp 1, 8

[By Mariana Baabar]

[Excerpts] Islamabad—On a request from the American Embassy, additional security arrangements were provided to all US buildings in the country on Tuesday, a Foreign Office spokesman confirmed to THE NATION. The spokesman stated that it was the responsibility of the host government to provide security to all foreign nationals and in this regard the Foreign Secretary had been in touch with the Interior Ministry to beef up security not only around American buildings but also around other foreign missions in the country which had also made similar requests.

The spokesman did not identify the other embassies. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the Secretary [of the] Interior disclosed on Tuesday that fresh orders have been given to the local administration to upgrade security measures of all those foreign missions who qualified for such action.

Surprisingly Minister for Interior Shujaat Hussain, according to his office, is away in London and would not be back till January 18.

Sharif Wants Iraqi Withdrawal From Kuwait

BK0901164091 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Prime Minister Mr. Nawaz Sharif has said that Pakistan wants the restoration of the legitimate government of Kuwait and Iraqi troop withdrawal from Kuwait without war. He told newsmen in Islamabad today that Pakistan has sent letters to many countries, including Islamic states, asking for their help in resolving this crisis peacefully. Pakistan also called for the convening of a meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization at the recent trilateral meeting of the foreign ministers of Pakistan, Iran and Turkey as an important step in this connection. Pakistan expects positive results from its efforts.

Minister Criticizes U.S., UN Positions on Gulf

BK0901162691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1022 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 9 (AFP)—A Pakistani minister has departed from the government line by slamming the

United States for refusing to link the Palestinian question to a resolution to the Gulf crisis.

Maulana Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi, federal minister for local government and rural development, said in an interview published Wednesday by the DAWN daily that the "occupation of Kuwait by Iraq is as much condemnable as was the forcible occupation of Arab lands by Israeli forces."

U.S. Forces in Saudi Arabia, he said, "have not come to protect the holy land of the Moslems, but to grab the oil resources of Saudi Arabia."

On top of that, he added, Saudi Arabia had to pay "huge expenses" for maintaining U.S. forces on its soil.

He also fired a volley at the United Nations for setting the January 15 deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait or face the threat of war.

"How can an organisation which was formed to promote peace allow a country to invade another country?" he said, alluding to a possible U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

Pakistan, a longtime regional ally of the United States despite current friction over Islamabad's nuclear program, has sent 5,000 soldiers to join the multinational force in Saudi Arabia poised against Iraq.

Tuesday, the U.S. State Department urged U.S. citizens living in Pakistan to leave before the January 15 deadline and authorised the voluntary departure of 500 non-essential embassy personnel and their family members.

Frontier Tribesmen See Saddam as 'Hero'

BK1001061691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0201 GMT 10 Jan 91

[By Shah Alam]

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Jan 10 (AFP)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has scored a sentimental triumph with the warlike Pathans of Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province who acclaim him as a Moslem hero.

The deeply religious Pushtu-speaking men speak of the Iraqi leader with reverence and affection, as they sip green tea and trade smuggled electronic wares, electrical appliances, cloth and crockery.

To the hearty Pathans, who love arms and manufacture them in the tribal belt straddling the border with Afghanistan, valour is the most precious of all individual or national traits.

Mr. Husayn, whose portraits appear at many shops and on private vehicles, represents to them a leader who has challenged the world's mightiest powers and stood up against the "usurper" Jews.

"Der bahadur dey"—he is very brave—were invariably the first words uttered by each of scores of Pathans interviewed in this historical city where military forts built last century by the British stand as a reminder of the legendary tribal defiance of the colonial army.

The colour portraits with no indication of the sponsor or printer are being sold by street vendors for rupees 20 (nearly one dollar) each. Clad in khaki, Saddam Husayn squats on a praying mat with hands outstretched in supplication.

"Saddam is the first Arab and Moslem ruler in the present age who has displayed courage and revived the memory of great moslem crusaders," said 40-year-old Nekamal Khan, father of four and owner of a store in the sprawling Hayatabad market.

The young and even the old here were ready to fight alongside the "forces of Islam" in the battles against the "infidel hordes," he said.

"We salute Saddam's heroic stand for the Palestinian rights," he said.

Although Iraq's August 2 invasion and occupation of the neighbouring Moslem state of Kuwait is viewed with disapproval, the issue apparently became secondary after the explosive United States-Iraq confrontation.

A number of influential spiritual and religious figures here have spoken out against the U.S. troop buildup in Saudi Arabia, suggesting the foreigners were mostly Jews desecrating the holy Moslem land.

At a number of places, including this provincial capital, demonstrations have been held in the past few weeks to voice support for the Iraqi leader.

"Pro-Saddam sentiments prevail among an overwhelming majority," said Iftikhar Ali, a prominent Pathan journalist who heads the provincial bureau of a leading Urdu-language newspaper.

"In case the United States attacks Iraq, this will definitely stir popular anger," said Mr. Ali. Many others in political, educational, cultural and business circles agreed.

Informed sources said all Americans and other Westerners connected with humanitarian aid agencies for the Afghan refugees have been leaving the area fearful of their safety if war breaks out in the gulf.

Pakistan has sided with international demands for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and has sent troops to join the military buildup in Saudi Arabia.

320 More Troops Sent to Saudi Arabia

BK1001112891 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Another contingent of 320 jawans [soldiers] and officers of the Army left for Saudi Arabia today. With their departure, the second phase of sending troops to (?serve at) the Haramain Sharifain [the two holy places] has begun.

President Discusses Strategy With Mujahidin

BK1001011491 Karachi DAWN in English 8 Jan 91 p 16

[By Nasir Malick]

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 7—Future strategy for the Afghan resistance war was discussed at a meeting held between the heads of the seven-party alliance of Afghan Mujahidin groups and Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif on Sunday night, a highly informed source told DAWN.

The dinner meeting at Prime Minister's House in the Federal Capital was also attended by some senior Army officers, including ISI [Inter Services Intelligence] Chief Gen. Durrani, dealing with the Afghan Mujahidin groups, the source said.

Afghan resistance sources said the meeting reviewed the situation arising out of US aid cut-off to the resistance groups.

Prime Minister Main Nawaz Sharif, they said, however, assured the leaders that his government would continue to provide arms and economic assistance to the Mujahidin from its own resources.

The source said Mian Nawaz Sharif told the party heads that Pakistan had stood with the Afghan brothers during the last 10 years and would not ditch them when "victory is in sight". He, however, asked them to forge unity in their ranks and involve all the resistance groups in the Afghan interim Government. He asserted that the groups which have been left out from the interim government should be given representation, the source added.

Some of the heads, the sources said, demanded of the Prime Minister that his government should recognise the Afghan Interim Government without any further delay.

They said Prime Minister of the Afghan Interim Government 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf did not attend the meeting "because of illness."

It was for the first time after the Soviet withdrawal that two main rivals Gulbuddin Hikmatyar and Malawi Muhammad Yunus Khalis together in the meeting.

Others who attended the meeting were Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani of Jamiyat-e Eslami; Muhammad Nabi Muhammadi of Harakat-e Enqelabi Eslami, Sebghatullah Mujadeddi, President of Afghan Interim Government and head of Jabah-i-Nijat-i-Milli party and Sayyed Hamid Gaylani of Mahaz-i-Milli-i-Islami.

Assemblyman's Assasination Spurs Violence

BK1001112591 Hong Kong AFP in English 1054 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 10 (AFP)—A member of the Pakistani National Assembly, Maulana Esarul Qasmi, was shot dead in the city of Jhang in Punjab Thursday during a by-election marred by sectarian violence, officials said.

Mr. Qasmi, vice-president of Anjuman Sipah-e-Sahaba (ASS), a Sunni Moslem religious group, was attacked by "unidentified assailants" while he was visiting a polling station, the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) said.

The assassination triggered "incidents of firing, arson and burning of property" and several people were injured, APP said.

Unofficial reports said the authorities had imposed a curfew to curb the violence.

Jhang is the base of ASS, which was blamed by mainly Shi'ite Iran for the December 19 slaying of Iranian diplomat Sadiq Ganji in Lahore, capital of Punjab.

Since then tension between the Sunni and Shi'a sects has gripped the city and at least two deaths have been reported in the past two weeks.

The reports said troops were deployed in the tense city Wednesday ahead of the by-elections as the authorities anticipated trouble during the polling.

Army sources reached by telephone in Jhang confirmed that the city, situated in southern Punjab, had been put under curfew.

Polling for a National Assembly seat vacated by Mr. Qasmi had been suspended because of the violence, Pakistani election commission officials said.

Early last year a top leader of ASS, Maulana Haq Nawaz Jhangvi, was gunned down in Jhang and the case has remained unsolved to date.

A special court in Lahore is currently holding trial of six people charged with assassinating the Iranian diplomat.

Two other persons have also been charged in the case but the police have not so far been able to apprehend them.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Demands Cease-Fire Extension

BK1001090091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0849 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Colombo, Jan 10 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's main guerrilla group Thursday demanded the indefinite extension of a truce with security forces, but rejected conditions to resume talks with Colombo.

In a statement received here, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), asked the government of President Ranasinghe Premadasa to declare a "total ceasefire with an indefinite timeframe."

The LTTE statement came as a temporary suspension of military operations against the militants drew to an end Thursday and Mr. Premadasa called political leaders here to discuss the ceasefire offered by the Tigers.

The LTTE first announced the ceasefire in the island's embattled Northeastern regions with effect from new year's day. The government responded by ordering troops to halt operations against the guerrillas till midnight (1830 GMT) Thursday.

Colombo said it needed time to assess the genuiness of the LTTE's ceasefire offer and seek views of other political parties, including rival Tamil groups which were fighting the Tigers alongside government troops.

"We hope that the Sri Lankan Government will respond positively and favourably and utilise this opportunity to create congenial conditions for peace and normalcy and political dialogue," the LTTE statement said.

It said the "genuiness and sincereity" of Colombo was in doubt because of what it called 39 ceasefire violations by government forces since January 1.

The government for its part has accused the Tigers of breaking their own ceasefire with violent incidents involving the death of one soldier and attacks on security forces. At least seven guerrillas have died in clashes with troops.

The Tigers labelled as rigid a demand by Colombo that the LTTE declare its intention to surrender arms before any fresh negotiations could begin.

Colombo has said that it was moving cautiously in response to the Tigers' peace offer because the group had "once betrayed the trust placed on them."

Fourteen months of secret peace talks between the government and the LTTE ended in failure when the LTTE on June 11 resumed their separatist campaign in the Tamil-majority Northeast with attacks on police stations and military camps. Since then, more than 5,250 people have died in bitter fighting.

LTTE Accused of 31 Cease-Fire Violations

BK1001113891 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1050 GMT 10 Jan 91

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 10 Jan (LANKAPUVATH)—The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has now committed 31 violations since it declared a unilateral cease-fire at midnight on 31 December.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the LTTE had strengthened its position about 500 metres from the principal naval base in Jaffna by felling trees across the approach to the base.

One terrorist was shot dead when LTTE cadres tried to attack a security force position at Kurumbacetty, also in Jaffna.

Meanwhile, 1,729 civilians had sought shelter in government refugee camps in Jaffna in order to escape from the LTTE, official sources said.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa this evening reviews the government seven-day cease-fire which came into operation at midnight last Thursday after the president discussed the LTTE unilateral declaration of a cease-fire at midnight on 31 December.

The government's seven-day cease-fire against the LTTE ends at midnight tonight.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa has invited all recognised political parties for talks at 1700 hours [1130 GMT] today to review and assess the situation in the North and East after the government enforced the weeklong cease-fire against the LTTE. Upto this morning 31 violations of the LTTE cease-fire were reported. One soldier was killed by the LTTE in these violations. The government troops had to retaliate in each of these LTTE violations.

President Premadasa is expected to make an announcement on whether the government cease-fire will be extended after protracted discussions with the 26 recognised political parties this evening.